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RULES OF THE MONTANA LEGISLATURE

**50TH LEGISLATURE
1987**

**WITH
THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION
&
THE U.S. CONSTITUTION**



Montana Legislative Council

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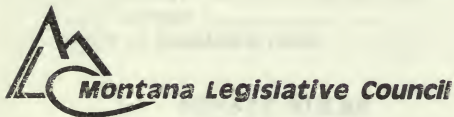


TABLE OF CONTENTS

JOINT RULES

(White Section)

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Presiding Officer — Decorum, Order, and Debate ...	1
2. Meetings, Quorums, and Attendance	3
3. Legislative Employees	5
4. Order of Business	9
5. Motions	10
6. Bills and Resolutions	
A. Form of Bills — Definition of Resolutions — General Provisions	13
B. Introduction — Bill Limit	15
C. First Reading and Referral	18
D. Amendments and Substitute Bills	18
E. Engrossing and Enrolling	19
F. Second Reading — Committee of the Whole	21
G. Third Reading — Consent Calendar — Governor's Veto	22
H. Transmittal of Bills — Revenue and Appropriation Bills	24
I. Fiscal Notes	25
7. Committees	28
8. Rules and Journal	31
9. Voting Procedure	33
10. Consent Calendar	35
11. Statement of Legislative Intent	36

SENATE RULES

(Pink Section)

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Presiding Officer — Decorum, Order, and Debate ...	41
4. Order of Business	43
5. Motions	44
7. Committees	45
8. Rules and Journal	47
10. Nominations from the Governor	48

HOUSE RULES

(Green Section)

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Presiding Officer — Decorum, Order, and Debate ...	51
2. Meetings, Quorums, and Attendance	52
3. Committees	53
4. Rules	55

Index to Rules (Yellow Section)

Montana Constitution (Blue Section)

Index to Montana Constitution (Salmon Section)

U.S. Constitution (Ivory Section)

JOINT RULES

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CHAPTER 1

Presiding Officer - Decorum, Order, and Debate

1-1. The presiding officer of the Senate is the President, and the presiding officer of the House of Representatives is the Speaker. The presiding officer of each house shall take the chair on every legislative day at the hour to which that house adjourned at the last sitting. After call to order, prayer by the chaplain, and roll call, a report on the journal for the preceding legislative day shall be given in the presence of a quorum, and each house shall proceed with the regular order of business.

1-2. The presiding officer, or any member acting as presiding officer, of each house shall preserve order and decorum, and in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct, may order the galleries or lobbies to be cleared.

1-3. The presiding officer of each house has general control and direction of the hall, chamber, rooms, passages, and corridors of the house over which he presides. Reporters on assignment in either house are subject to placement by the presiding officer.

1-4. The presiding officer of each house shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by any member seconded by two other members. No member may speak more than once on an appeal without the consent of a majority of the house of which he is a member.

1-5. When a member desires to speak, he shall rise and address the presiding officer and, being recognized, shall speak standing in his place unless the presiding officer grants permission to speak from some other place on the floor. When two or more members rise at the same time, the presiding officer shall name the member who is to speak first.

1-6. When a member has been called to order, he shall sit down until the presiding officer determines whether he is in order or not. If the member is called to order for words spoken in debate, the language excepted to shall be taken down in writing by the Chief Clerk of the House or the Secretary of the Senate.

1-7. Questions of privilege are: first, those affecting the collective rights, safety, dignity, or integrity of the proceedings of either house; and second, those affecting the rights, reputation, or conduct of individual members of either house in their capacity as members. A question of privilege

affecting either house collectively takes precedence over a question of privilege affecting an individual member.

1-8. The presiding officer of each house shall sign all subpoenas approved or issued by the house over which he presides.

1-9. (1) A communication or paper shall be addressed to the presiding officer and shall bear the name of the person submitting it. When the reading of a paper is called for and a member objects, it shall be determined by a vote of the house without debate. This subsection does not apply to bills or to communications from the Governor or the other house.

(2) A paper for or against proposed legislation may not be placed on the desks of the members or circulated within the chamber unless the person responsible has signed it and has received permission from the presiding officer to distribute it in the house concerned.

1-10. When the presiding officer is presiding, he shall vote as any other member and may not vote a second time.

CHAPTER 2

Meetings, Quorums, and Attendance

2-1. The hour of meeting of the Senate and the House of Representatives may be as ordered by the Senate or House.

2-2. Lobbying on the floor of the Senate or the House of Representatives is prohibited during the session and within 1 hour prior to the commencement of a session and within one-half hour after recess or adjournment.

2-3. The sessions of the Legislature and of the Committee of the Whole, all committee meetings, and all hearings shall be open to the public (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 10(3)).

2-4. Neither house shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn or recess for more than 3 days or to any other place than that in which the two houses shall be sitting (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 10(5)).

2-5. A majority of each house shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day and compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner and under such penalties as each house may prescribe (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 10(2)).

2-6. Unless he is excused, a member of the House or the Senate shall be present at every sitting of the house of which he is a member.

2-7. In the absence of a quorum, a majority of members present in either house may compel the attendance of absent members by ordering a call of the house of which they are members.

2-8. If a quorum is present, five members of the Senate may order a call of the Senate and fifteen members of the House of Representatives may order a call of the House.

2-9. On a call of either house, a member who refuses to attend may be arrested by the Sergeant-at-Arms or any other person, as the majority of such members present shall direct. When the attendance of an absent member is secured after a call of either house, if the house of which he is a member refuses to excuse his absence, he shall not be paid any expense payments during his absence and is liable for the expenses incurred in procuring his attendance.

2-10. During a call of either house, all business of that house shall be suspended. After a call has been ordered, no motion is in order except a motion to adjourn or remove the call. The call may be removed by a two-thirds vote.

2-11. If either house is in session upon a given day, whether or not the other house is in session, that day shall constitute a legislative day.

JOINT RULES

CHAPTER 3 Legislative Employees

3-1. The Legislature shall prescribe the compensation of the employees of each house by joint resolution. Each house shall prescribe the duties of its officers and employees, and no payment shall be made from the state treasury or be in any way authorized to any such person, except to an acting officer or employee elected or appointed in pursuance of law.

3-2. The Legislative Council shall be responsible for maintaining personnel files.

3-3. The Committee on Legislative Administration of each house shall appoint a secretary for a standing or special committee on recommendation of the committee chairman, subject to the approval of the respective house. A secretary for a standing or special committee is immediately responsible to the committee chairman, but when not occupied with the duties of a committee, shall work under the direction of the chief stenographer of each house. The Legislative Council shall hire all engrossing and enrolling staff, who are under the direction of the Bills Committee.

3-4. The presiding officer and the majority and minority floor leader of each house may each appoint a private secretary.

3-5. The Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives are responsible to the presiding officers of their respective houses. Their duties are to:

(1) have custody of all records, bills, documents, and other papers;

(2) supervise the making and examination of the journal and the handling of bills and resolutions;

(3) deliver to the Secretary of State at the close of each session the journal, bill books, and resolution books, and all copies of introduced bills and joint resolutions;

(4) collect from the chairmen or secretaries of all standing committees, special committees, and conference committees the minutes of such committees and deliver them to the Montana Historical Society (see Rule 7-4).

3-6. Journal clerks, bill clerks, typists, and other employees responsible for legislative functions (except secretaries for standing or special committees, secretaries to presiding officers, and secretaries to majority and minority floor leaders) are immediately responsible to the Secretary of the

Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House, subject to the general supervision of the presiding officer. All staff employed jointly shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Legislative Administration and the House Committee on Legislative Administration/Bills and Journal, acting jointly.

3-7. (1) The duties of the engrossing and enrolling staff are:

(a) to engross or enroll all bills delivered to them within 48 hours after they have been received, unless further time is granted in writing by the presiding officer of the house in which the bill originated; and

(b) to correct clerical errors, absent the objection of the sponsor of a bill or amendment and the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, in any bill or amendment originating in the house by which they are employed. Clerical errors such as the following may be corrected:

(i) errors in spelling;

(ii) errors in numbering sections;

(iii) adding or deleting underlining or lines through matter to be stricken; and

(iv) material copied incorrectly from the Montana Code Annotated.

(2) The Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House and the sponsor of the bill or amendment shall be notified in writing of the clerical correction. An objection to the correction may be registered by the Secretary of the Senate, Chief Clerk of the House, or sponsor by filing it in writing within 24 hours after receipt of the notice.

(3) When a committee is the sponsor of a bill, any member thereof so designated by the chairman may be the principal sponsor for the purpose of this section. When a committee has proposed an amendment, the chairman is the principal sponsor for the purpose of this section.

3-8. The Sergeants-at-Arms are responsible to the presiding officers of their respective houses. Their duties are to:

(1) maintain order under the direction of the presiding officer;

(2) execute commands and serve all processes;

(3) receive, distribute, and have custody of supplies.

3-9. The Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms, doorkeepers, watchmen, janitors, pages, and other employees responsible for general housekeeping functions are immediately responsible to the Sergeant-at-Arms, subject to the general supervision of the presiding officer.

3-10. The duty of the chaplain of each house is to open each day's session with a prayer.

3-11. (1) A legislative aide is a person who has registered with the Chief Clerk of the House or the Secretary of the Senate and has been issued a distinctive identification form, such as a name tag. Such identification may be issued only upon receiving written verification from a member that the person is serving him as an aide. A person may not represent himself to be a legislative aide unless he carries such identification. The Sergeants-at-Arms and doorkeepers shall enforce this rule. Legislative aides must be of legal age unless otherwise approved by the presiding officer.

(2) No member may designate more than one aide without the approval of the Rules Committee of the house involved.

(3) Qualifications for legislative interns are specified in Title 5, chapter 6, MCA.

3-12. An employee, legislative aide, or legislative intern of either house is prohibited from lobbying as defined in section 5-7-102, MCA. However, such person may testify before a committee of either house on the request of the committee. Any person violating this rule shall be discharged.

3-13. Disputes or complaints involving the competency or decorum of a legislative employee shall be referred to the Committee on Legislative Administration of the house by which the employee is employed. The committee, in its discretion, may dismiss, suspend, or retain the employee. The Committee on Legislative Administration shall periodically review the roster of employees and shall dismiss surplus employees.

3-14. (1) The offices of the Legislative Council shall serve both the Senate and the House of Representatives as required.

(2) The Council staff shall prepare payrolls for certification and signature by the presiding officer and prepare a monthly financial report and distribute the report to legislative leaders in each house and to members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Claims and the House Committee on Appropriations.

3-15. (1) Contracts for purchase or lease of equipment and supplies made during the legislative session shall be made on the approval of the Committee on Legislative Administration of each house, subject to the review of the presiding officer of the respective house. Purchase orders shall be issued by the Legislative Council staff and accounting records kept in that office.

(2) Long distance telephone calls made while legislators are in session or in travel status are considered official legislative business and include but are not limited to calls made to constituencies, places of business, and family. Session staff, including aides and interns, may use telephones for long distance calls only when specifically authorized to do so by their legislative sponsor or supervisor. Sponsoring legislators and supervisors are accountable for use of state telephones by their staff, including aides and interns. Members may not authorize others to use state phones. Permanent staff of the legislature shall comply with executive branch rules applying to the use of state telephones.

CHAPTER 4

Order of Business

4-1. After prayer, roll call, and report on the journal, the order of business of the Senate and House of Representatives is as follows:

- (1) communications and petitions;
- (2) reports of standing committees;
- (3) reports of select committees;
- (4) messages from the Governor;
- (5) messages from the other house;
- (6) motions;
- (7) first reading and commitment of bills;
- (8) second reading of bills (Committee of the Whole);
- (9) third reading of bills and consent calendar bills;
- (10) unfinished business;
- (11) special orders of the day; and
- (12) announcement of committee meetings.

To revert to or pass to a new order of business requires only a majority vote. Unless otherwise specified in the motion to recess, the house involved shall revert to Order of Business No. 1 when reconvening after a recess.

CHAPTER 5

Motions

5-1. When a motion is made it shall be restated by the presiding officer and, if requested by the presiding officer or a member, shall be reduced to writing and read aloud. A motion may be withdrawn by the member making it at any time before it is amended or voted upon.

5-2. (1) When a question is under debate no motion may be made except the following privileged and subsidiary motions, which have precedence in the order listed:

- (a) to adjourn;
- (b) for a call of the house;
- (c) to recess;
- (d) question of privilege;
- (e) to lay on the table;
- (f) for the previous question;
- (g) to postpone to a certain day;
- (h) to refer or commit;
- (i) to amend; and
- (j) to postpone indefinitely.

(2) A question may be indefinitely postponed by a majority roll call vote of all members present and voting. When a bill or resolution is postponed indefinitely, it is finally rejected and may not be acted upon again during the biennium except upon a motion of reconsideration made pursuant to Rule 5-4.

5-3. No motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment or substitute.

5-4. Any member may, on the day the vote was taken or on the next day the house in which the action was taken is in session, move to reconsider the question. A motion to reconsider may not be withdrawn after such next legislative day without the unanimous consent of the house concerned, and thereafter any member may call it up for consideration; however, a motion to reconsider made after the 54th day of the session shall be disposed of when made. A motion to recall a bill from the other house constitutes notice to reconsider and shall be acted on as a motion to reconsider. A motion to reconsider or to recall a bill from the other house may be made only under Order of Business No. 6

and, under that order of business, takes precedence over all motions except motions to recess or adjourn.

5-5. When a motion to reconsider is laid on the table, a two-thirds majority is required to take it from the table. When a motion to reconsider fails, the question is finally and conclusively settled.

5-6. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this rule, the effect of moving the previous question, if adopted, is to close debate immediately, to prevent the moving of amendments or other subsidiary motions, and to bring to vote promptly the immediately pending main question and the adhering subsidiary motions, whether on appeal or otherwise.

(2) When the previous question is ordered on any debatable question on which there has been no debate, the question may be debated for one-half hour, one-half of such time to be given to the proponents and one-half to the opponents.

5-7. A call of the house is not in order after the previous question is ordered unless it appears upon an actual count by the presiding officer that a quorum is not present.

5-8. The following motions are not debatable:

- (1) to adjourn;
- (2) for a call of the house;
- (3) to recess;
- (4) for parliamentary inquiry;
- (5) for suspension of the rules;
- (6) to lay on the table;
- (7) for the previous question;
- (8) to limit, extend the limits of, or to close debate;
- (9) to amend an undebatable motion;
- (10) to divide a question;
- (11) to pass business in Committee of the Whole;
- (12) to take from the table;

(13) a decision of the presiding officer, unless appealed or unless he submits the question to the house for advice or decision;

(14) all incidental motions, such as motions relating to voting or other questions of a general procedural nature.

5-9. A member may move to divide a question if it includes two or more propositions so distinct in substance that if one thing is taken away a substantive question will remain.

5-10. No more than one amendment and no more than one substitute motion may be made to a motion. This rule permits the main motion and two modifying motions.

CHAPTER 6

Bills and Resolutions

A. Form of Bills — Definition of Resolutions — General Provisions

6-1. The only types of instruments other than bills which may be introduced in either house of the Legislature are as follows:

(1) (a) A simple resolution is a formalized motion passed by one house only and bears the heading "House Resolution" or "Senate Resolution". It may be used only to adopt or amend the rules of one house, to make recommendations concerning the districting and apportionment plan as provided by Article V, section 14, subsection (3), of the Montana Constitution, to provide for the internal affairs of the house adopting it, or by the Senate to express confirmation of appointments. When a simple resolution has been introduced, it shall be referred to a committee. Final action shall be taken on the Committee of the Whole report. The transmittal of copies of simple resolutions is the responsibility of the Chief Clerk or Secretary of the house of origin.

(b) A copy of every simple resolution is to be transmitted after adoption to the Secretary of State by the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House.

(2) A joint resolution must be adopted by both houses and is not approved by the Governor. It may be used to:

(a) express desire, opinion, sympathy, or request of the Legislature;

(b) request an interim study by a legislative subcommittee;

(c) adopt or amend the joint rules;

(d) set salaries and other terms of employment for legislative employees;

(e) approve construction of a state building under section 18-2-102 or 20-25-302, MCA;

(f) deal with disasters and emergencies under Title 10, specifically as provided in sections 10-3-302(3), 10-3-303(3), 10-3-303(4), and 10-3-505(5), MCA;

(g) submit a negotiated settlement under section 39-31-305(3), MCA;

(h) declare or terminate an energy emergency under section 90-4-310, MCA;

(i) ratify or propose amendments to the United States Constitution; or

(j) advise or request the repeal, amendment, or adoption of a rule in the Administrative Rules of Montana.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in these rules or the Constitution of the State of Montana, a joint resolution is treated in all respects as a bill.

(4) A copy of every joint resolution is to be transmitted after adoption to the Secretary of State by the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House.

6-2. All bill drafting requests shall require a legislative sponsor. Bills shall be printed on paper with numbered lines and shall be introduced in triplicate. Bills shall be numbered at the foot of each page (except page 1), and the original copy shall have a white cover of a substantial material. In sections amending existing statutes, matter to be stricken out shall be indicated with a line through the words or part to be deleted, and new matter shall be underlined. Sections of the Montana Code Annotated repealed or amended in a bill shall be stated in the title, except for general appropriation bills and bills for the codification and general revision of the laws. Introduced bills will be reproduced on white paper and distributed to legislators.

6-3. (1) No bill, except general appropriation bills and bills for the codification and general revision of the laws, shall contain more than one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in the title. The enacting clause of every law shall be as follows: "Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Montana".

(2) A bill shall be used to propose amendments to the Constitution of the State of Montana and shall not be subject to the veto of the Governor (Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 10(1)).

6-4. (1) All appropriation bills shall originate in the House of Representatives.

(2) The general appropriation bills shall embrace nothing but appropriations for the ordinary expenses of the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches of state government, interest on public debt, and for public schools. All other appropriations shall be made by separate bills, each embracing but one subject (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(4)). Appropriation bills for the operation of the Legislature shall be introduced by the chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations.

6-5. Every statute, unless a different time is prescribed therein, takes effect on October 1 following its passage and approval, except one that provides for appropriation by the Legislature of public funds for a public purpose, which takes effect on July 1 following its passage and approval unless a different time is prescribed therein. Every joint resolution, unless a different time is prescribed therein, takes effect on its passage (sections 1-2-201 and 1-2-202, MCA).

B. Introduction — Bill Limit

6-6. (1) A legislator may not request more than five bills from the Legislative Council, nor may a legislator introduce more than five bills. This limit does not apply to:

(a) bills requested prior to the convening date of each session;

(b) code commissioner bills;

(c) resolutions;

(d) standing committee bills;

(e) appropriation bills; or

(f) revenue bills.

(2) Bills and joint resolutions will be checked by the staff of the Legislative Council prior to introduction for proper format, style, and legal form. Bills will be stored on the automated bill drafting equipment, printed, and delivered in triplicate to the requesting legislator. A stamp shall be affixed to the original bill cover and signed to indicate Council review. If such stamp is not affixed, the bill may not be introduced.

(3) During a session a bill may be introduced by endorsing it with the name of a member and presenting it to the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Secretary of the Senate in triplicate. Bills or joint resolutions may be sponsored jointly by Senate and House members. A jointly sponsored bill shall be introduced in the house in which the legislator whose name appears first on the bill is a member. The chief joint sponsor's name shall appear immediately to the right of the first sponsor's name. Bills, joint resolutions, and simple resolutions shall be numbered consecutively in each session of the Legislature in separate series in the order of their receipt.

(4) Any bill proposed by a legislative committee or introduced by request of an administrative or executive agency or department shall be so indicated following the names of the sponsors, "By Request of the (Name of agency or committee)".

(5) Bills may be preintroduced, numbered, and reproduced prior to a legislative session by the staff of the Legislative Council. Actual signatures may appear on the face of the preintroduced bill, or signatures may be obtained on a consent form from the Legislative Council and the sponsor's name printed on the bill. Additional sponsors may be added on motion of the chief sponsor at any time prior to a standing committee report on the bill. These names will be forwarded to the Legislative Council to be included on the face of the bill following standing committee approval.

(6) All preintroduced bills will be made available to the public.

6-7. The following schedule must be followed for submission of drafting requests and introduction of bills and resolutions.

	Request Deadline 5:00 P.M. Legislative Day	Introduction Deadline 5:00 P.M. Legislative Day
• General Bills and Resolutions	10	14
• Revenue Bills	17	21
• Committee Bills and Resolutions	36	40
• Committee Revenue Bills	62	66
• Committee bills implementing provisions of a general appropriation act	75	78
Bills and resolutions delivered after the applicable introduction deadline must be introduced within 2 legislative days after delivery.		
• Appropriation Bills	No deadline	No deadline
• Interim Study Resolutions	No deadline	No deadline
• Resolutions to express confirmation of appointments	No deadline	No deadline
• Bills repealing or directing the amendment or adoption of Administrative Rules and Joint Resolutions advising or requesting the repeal, amendment, or adoption of Administrative Rules	No deadline	No deadline

6-8. (1) No bill may be introduced or received in a house after that house has finally rejected a bill during that session designed to accomplish the same purpose save upon approval by the Rules Committee of the house in which the bill is offered for introduction or reception.

(2) Failure to override a veto does not constitute final rejection.

6-9. At least three-fourths of a standing committee must consent to the introduction of a committee bill.

C. First Reading and Referral

6-10. (1) No motion affecting a bill is in order on its first reading except as provided in Joint Rule 6-6(5).

(2) Upon introduction or reception of a bill, the Chief Clerk of the House or the Secretary of the Senate shall publicly post upon a listing that bill by a summary of its title in the house of origin and by a summary of its title and by its history in the second house, together with a notation of the committee to which it has been assigned, and such posting shall constitute the first reading of the bill.

6-11. No bill shall be considered or become a law unless referred to a committee and returned therefrom.

6-12. Upon introduction or reception of a bill, it shall be referred to a committee by the presiding officer.

6-13. A bill may be rereferred at any time before its passage.

D. Amendments and Substitute Bills

6-14. No law shall be revised or amended or the provisions thereof extended by reference to its title only, but so much thereof as is revised, amended, or extended shall be reenacted and published at length.

6-15. No law shall be passed except by bill, and no bill shall be so altered or amended on its passage through either house as to change its original purpose (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(1)).

6-16. A committee may recommend that every clause in a bill be changed and that entirely new matter be substituted so long as the new matter is relevant to the title and subject of the original bill. A substitute bill shall be considered as an amendment and not as a new bill.

6-17. The proper form of reporting a substitute bill by a committee is to propose amendments to strike out all of the bill following the enacting clause and to substitute the new

bill, recommending also any necessary changes in the title. If a committee report recommending a substitute for a bill originating in the other house is adopted, the substitute bill shall be printed and reproduced.

6-18. Amendments to a bill by the second house shall not be further amended by the house in which the bill originated, but must either be accepted or rejected. If the amendments are rejected, a conference committee may be requested by the house in which the bill originated. If the amendments are accepted and the bill is of a type requiring more than a majority vote for passage, the bill shall again be placed on third reading in the house of origin. The vote on third reading after concurrence in amendments is the vote of the house of origin that must be used to determine if the required number of votes has been cast.

6-19. If a majority of a house adopts a recommendation for the passage of a bill originating in that house after it has been returned from a committee with amendments, the bill shall be reproduced on yellow paper with all amendments incorporated into the copies. If the bill has been returned from a committee without amendments, only the first sheet need be reproduced on yellow paper, and the remainder of the text incorporated by reference to the preceding version of the entire bill. Bills referred to the Bills Committee of the house of origin for reproduction must be reported within 3 days unless further time is granted by that house.

E. Engrossing and Enrolling

6-20. (1) When a bill has been reported favorably by Committee of the Whole of the house of origin and the report has been adopted, the bill shall be engrossed under the direction of the Bills Committee, and when reported correctly engrossed by the committee shall be placed on the calendar for third reading on the succeeding legislative day. Committee of the Whole amendments shall be included in the engrossed bill. Copies of the engrossed bill to be distributed to legislators will be reproduced on blue paper. If a bill is unamended by the Committee of the Whole and contains no clerical errors, it may be engrossed without reprinting, and only the first sheet need be reproduced on blue paper, with the remainder of the text incorporated by reference to the preceding version of the entire bill.

(2) If a bill is amended by the standing committee or Committee of the Whole in the second house, the amendments will be included in a salmon-colored reference bill and

distributed in the second house for third reading consideration. The amendments will also be reproduced and attached to the reference bill. If the bill passes on third reading, copies of the reference bill and second house amendments will be distributed in the original house.

6-21. (1) When a bill has passed both houses, it shall be enrolled under the direction of the Bills Committee of the house of origin. An original and two duplicate printed copies of the bill shall be enrolled, free from all corrections and errors, with a margin of two inches at the top and one inch on each side. In sections amending existing statutes, new matter shall be underlined and stricken matter shall be omitted. The original and two copies of the bill shall be red lined. The history of the bill shall also be enrolled and placed with the bill in a white manuscript cover, upon which is written the number of the bill and the title. The Legislative Council staff shall file a copy of the history with the law library.

(2) When the enrolling has been completed, the bill shall be examined by the sponsor and the Bills Committee and reported correctly enrolled.

(3) The correctly enrolled bill shall be delivered to the presiding officer of the house in which the bill originated. The presiding officer shall sign the original and two copies of each bill delivered to him not later than the next legislative day after it has been reported correctly enrolled, unless the bill is delivered on the last legislative day, in which event it shall be signed that day. The fact of signing shall be announced by the presiding officer and entered upon the journal no later than the next legislative day. At any time after the report of a bill correctly enrolled and before the signing, if a member signifies his desire to examine the bill, he shall be permitted to do so. The bill shall then be transmitted to the other house where the same procedure shall be followed.

(4) A bill that has passed both houses of the Legislature by the 90th day may be enrolled; clerically corrected by the presiding officers, if necessary; signed by the presiding officers; and delivered to the Governor not later than 5 days after the 90th legislative day. All journal entries authorized under this rule will be entered on the journal for the 90th day.

(5) The original and two copies signed by the presiding officer of each house shall be presented by the Bills Committee to the Governor. The Bills Committee shall take a

receipt from the Governor and shall report to the house the day and hour of such presentation, which shall be entered in the journal. The original shall be filed with the Secretary of State. Signed copies with chapter numbers assigned pursuant to section 5-11-204, MCA, shall be filed with the Clerk of the Supreme Court and the Legislative Council.

F. Second Reading — Committee of the Whole

6-22. All bills, except consent calendar bills, which have been reported by a committee, accepted by the house concerned, and reproduced shall be posted on the calendar for consideration by Committee of the Whole. The Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House shall record the time each bill is received and the time the bill is placed on members' desks. Until the 50th legislative day, one day must elapse between the time a committee-approved bill is placed on the members' desks and consideration by the Committee of the Whole. Bills shall be arranged on the calendar in numerical order unless they are companion bills or are otherwise ordered by the house or Committee of the Whole of the house concerned.

6-23. (1) Every bill considered in Committee of the Whole shall be read by a summary of its title. Proposed amendments shall be considered; then the bill shall be considered in its entirety.

(2) All Committee of the Whole amendments shall be prepared and delivered to the clerk for reading before the amendment is voted on. The amendment form will include the date and time of the amendment. Each rejected proposed amendment shall be identified and kept in the office of the Chief Clerk of the House or the Secretary of the Senate. Upon adjournment, the text of such amendments shall be delivered to the state archives.

6-24. Prior to adoption of a Committee of the Whole report, a member may move to segregate a bill. If the motion prevails, the bill remains on second reading.

6-25. When a Committee of the Whole report on a bill is rejected, the bill shall remain on second reading.

6-26. Either house may resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole by approval of a motion for that purpose. So far as may be applicable, the rules governing each house shall be observed when that house resolves itself into a Committee of the Whole, except as follows:

(1) The only motions in order are to:

(a) amend;

- (b) recommend passage or nonpassage;
- (c) recommend concurrence or nonconcurrence;
- (d) indefinitely postpone;
- (e) pass consideration;
- (f) rise;
- (g) rise and report; or
- (h) rise and report progress and ask leave to sit again.

(2) The committee may not appoint subcommittees.

(3) The committee may not punish its members for misconduct, but may report disorder to the house concerned.

(4) Unless otherwise prescribed by either house before going into Committee of the Whole, a member may speak as often as he is recognized and for as long each time as is allowed in debate in the particular house.

6-27. After a Committee of the Whole has been formed, the presiding officer shall appoint a chairman to preside. Upon resuming the chair, the presiding officer shall receive the report of the chairman of the committee and the house shall take action on the report.

G. Third Reading — Consent Calendar — Governor's Veto

6-28. (1) No bill shall become a law except by vote of a majority of all the members present and voting in each house. On final passage the vote shall be taken by ayes and noes, and the names of those voting entered on the journal (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(1) and (2)).

(2) Any vote in one house on a bill proposing an amendment to the Montana Constitution where the mathematical possibility exists of obtaining the necessary two-thirds vote of the Legislature will cause the bill to progress as though it had received the majority vote.

6-29. Except for consent calendar bills, every bill shall be read three times prior to passage, either by title or by summary of title as provided in these rules. The first reading shall be as prescribed in Joint Rule 6-10; the second prior to debate in Committee of the Whole; and the third prior to final passage. No bill shall receive more than one reading on the same day except on the last legislative day. No amendment may be offered on the third reading.

6-30. (1) Each bill passed by the Legislature, except bills proposing amendments to the Montana Constitution, bills ratifying proposed amendments to the United States Consti-

tution, resolutions, or referendum measures of the Legislature, shall be submitted to the Governor for his signature. If he does not sign or veto the bill within 5 days after its delivery to him if the Legislature is in session or within 25 days if the Legislature is adjourned, it shall become law. The Governor shall return a vetoed bill to the Legislature with a statement of his reasons therefor.

(2) The Governor may return any bill to the Legislature with his recommendation for amendment. If the Legislature passes the bill in accordance with the Governor's recommendation, it shall again return the bill to the Governor for his reconsideration. The Governor shall not return a bill for amendment a second time.

(3) If after receipt of a veto message, two-thirds of the members of each house present approve the bill, it shall become law.

(4) If the Legislature is not in session when the Governor vetoes a bill, he shall return the bill with his reasons therefor to the Legislature as provided by law. The Legislature may be polled on a bill approved by two-thirds of the members present or reconvened to reconsider any bill so vetoed (Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 10).

(5) The Governor may veto items in appropriation bills, and in such instances the procedure shall be the same as upon veto of an entire bill (Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 10).

6-31. Upon receipt of a veto message the presiding officer shall read the message. After the reading a member may move that the Governor's veto shall be overridden. A vote on the motion shall be determined by roll call. If two-thirds of the members present vote "aye", the veto is overridden. If two-thirds of the members present do not vote "aye", the veto is sustained.

6-32. If the Governor returns a bill to the originating house with his recommendations for amendment, such house shall reconsider the bill under its rules relating to amendment offered in Committee of the Whole. The bill is then subject to the following procedures:

(1) The originating house shall transmit to the second house, for consideration under its rules relating to amendments in Committee of the Whole, the bill and the originating house's approval or disapproval of the Governor's recommendations.

(2) If both houses approve the Governor's recommendations, the bill shall be returned to the Governor for his reconsideration.

(3) If both houses disapprove the Governor's recommendations, the bill shall be returned to the Governor for his reconsideration.

(4) If one house disapproves the Governor's recommendations and the other house approves, then either house may request a conference committee which may be a free conference committee.

(a) If both houses adopt a conference committee report, the bill in accordance with the report shall be returned to the Governor for his reconsideration.

(b) If a conference committee fails to reach agreement or if its report is not adopted by both houses, the Governor's recommendations shall be considered not approved and the bill shall be returned to the Governor for further consideration.

H. Transmittal of Bills — Revenue and Appropriation Bills

6-33. Each house shall transmit to the other with any bill all relevant papers. When a House bill is transmitted from the House of Representatives to the Senate, the Secretary of the Senate shall give a dated receipt for the bill to the Chief Clerk of the House. When a Senate bill is transmitted to the House of Representatives, the Chief Clerk of the House shall give a dated receipt to the Secretary of the Senate.

6-34. (1) No bill, except for appropriation bills, revenue bills, or amendments considered by joint committee, need be acted upon (save for reference to a committee by the presiding officer) if transmitted from one house to the other after the 45th legislative day, but shall be held pending in the house to which it is transmitted unless two-thirds of the members present and voting determine that the bill shall be acted upon. Amendments, except to appropriation bills and revenue bills, shall likewise be deferred for consideration if transmitted after the 70th legislative day.

(2) A revenue bill is one which would either increase or decrease tax collections.

(3) Revenue bills originating in the Senate shall be transmitted to the House on or before the 58th day, unless two-thirds of the members present and voting in the House determine that the bill may be transmitted after the 58th

day. House amendments to such bills shall be transmitted by the House to the Senate on or before the 83rd day unless two-thirds of the members present and voting in the Senate determine that such an amendment may be transmitted after the 83rd day. Revenue bills originating in the House shall be transmitted to the Senate on or before the 65th day unless two-thirds of the members present and voting in the Senate determine that the bill may be transmitted after the 65th day. Senate amendments to House revenue bills shall be transmitted by the Senate to the House on or before the 83rd day unless two-thirds of the members present and voting in the House determine that such amendments may be transmitted after the 83rd day.

(4) Appropriation bills and any bill implementing provisions of a general appropriation bill shall be transmitted to the Senate on or before the 72nd day unless two-thirds of the members present and voting in the Senate determine that the bill may be transmitted after the 72nd day. Senate amendments to such bills shall be transmitted by the Senate to the House on or before the 83rd legislative day unless two-thirds of the members present and voting in the House determine that such an amendment may be transmitted after the 83rd day.

(5) Interim study resolutions, bills repealing or directing the amendment or adoption of administrative rules, and joint resolutions advising or requesting the repeal, amendment, or adoption of administrative rules may be transmitted at any time during a session.

(6) A joint resolution introduced for the purpose of estimating revenue available for appropriation by the Legislature shall be transmitted not later than the 67th day. Amendments to such resolutions shall be transmitted to the house of origin not later than the 83rd day.

6-35. When a bill has received its third reading or has been rejected, the house that considered the bill shall as soon as possible transmit it to the other house with notice of its action.

I. Fiscal Notes

6-36. (1) All bills reported out of a committee of the Legislature having an effect on the revenues, expenditures, or fiscal liability of the state, except appropriation measures carrying specific dollar amounts, shall include a fiscal note incorporating an estimate of such effect. The Legislative Council staff shall indicate at the top of each bill prepared for introduction that a fiscal note may be necessary under

this rule. Fiscal notes shall be requested by the presiding officer of either house, who at the time of introduction shall determine the need for the note, based on the Legislative Council staff recommendation.

(2) Unless the requestor directs otherwise, the Legislative Council shall deliver three copies of any bill for which it has been determined a fiscal note may be necessary to the Budget Director immediately after the bill has been delivered to the requestor prepared for introduction. The Budget Director may proceed with the preparation of a fiscal note in anticipation of a subsequent formal request.

(3) The state Budget Director, in cooperation with the agency or agencies affected by the bill, is responsible for the preparation of the fiscal note and shall return the same within 6 days, unless further time is granted by the presiding officer or committee making the request, based upon a written statement from the Budget Director that additional time is necessary to properly prepare the note.

(4) A completed fiscal note shall be submitted by the Budget Director to the presiding officer who requested it, who shall refer it to the committee considering the bill. All fiscal notes shall be reproduced and placed on the members' desks.

(5) Fiscal notes shall, where possible, show in dollar amounts the estimated increase or decrease in revenues or expenditures, costs which may be absorbed without additional funds, and long-range financial implications. No comment or opinion relative to merits of the bill shall be included; however, technical or mechanical defects may be noted.

(6) A fiscal note also may be requested on a bill and on an amendment by:

- (a) a committee considering the bill; or
- (b) a majority of the members of the house in which the bill is to be considered, at the time of second reading; or
- (c) the chief sponsor through the presiding officer.

(7) The Budget Director shall make available on request to any member of the Legislature all background information used in developing a fiscal note (Title 5, chapter 4, part 2, MCA).

6-37. (1) If a sponsor elects to prepare a sponsor's fiscal note pursuant to 5-4-204, MCA, he shall make the election as provided in 5-4-204(1)(c), MCA, and return the com-

pleted sponsor's fiscal note to the presiding officer within 4 days of such election.

(2) The presiding officer may grant additional time to the sponsor to prepare the sponsor's fiscal note.

(3) Upon receipt of the completed sponsor's fiscal note, the presiding officer shall refer it to the committee hearing the bill. If the bill is printed, the note must be identified as a sponsor's fiscal note, reproduced, and placed on the members' desks.

(4) The Legislative Council shall provide forms for preparation of sponsors' fiscal notes and shall print the completed sponsors' fiscal notes on a different color paper than the fiscal notes prepared by the budget director.

CHAPTER 7

Committees

7-1. The Committee on Legislative Administration of each house shall consider all matters concerned with seating, mileage and expenses, legislative employees, the control of the legislative property, and the budgeting for and expenditure of appropriations for the operation of the Legislature, in cooperation with the Legislative Council staff.

7-2. Upon request of any member of the house in which a bill is pending, a standing committee shall submit a written report in triplicate on any bill or matter referred to it within 7 days after the request, unless, at the request of the committee and for good cause shown, further time is granted by the house concerned.

7-3. If the members of a committee cannot agree on a report, the majority and minority of the committee present at a committee meeting may submit separate reports. Only one minority report may be submitted. Such reports shall be entered at length on the journal, unless otherwise ordered by the house concerned.

7-4. All committees, joint committees, and subcommittees shall keep minutes of their meetings. The chairman of each such committee must designate a secretary to take and transcribe minutes. The chairman must authenticate the minutes by his signature. At the close of the session, the chairman shall turn the original and two complete copies of the minutes over to the Chief Clerk of the House or the Secretary of the Senate. The original minutes shall be delivered to the Montana Historical Society. The Legislative Council and the Montana State Law Library shall each be given one copy of the minutes.

7-5. The Committee on Bills and Journal, the Rules Committee, and conference committees may report at any time, except during a call of the house or when a vote is being taken. Reports from the Bills and Journal Committee shall stand approved without formal action.

7-6. (1) All bills providing for an appropriation of public money may first be considered by a joint committee composed of the members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Claims and the House Committee on Appropriations, and then by each separately. Meetings of the joint committee shall be held upon call of the chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, who shall be chairman of the joint committee.

(2) There shall be a joint committee composed of members of the House and Senate Committees on Taxation. The joint committee shall consider any resolution introduced for the purpose of estimating revenue that may be available for appropriation by the Legislature. The joint committee shall be composed of three members from each political party in each house appointed by the chairmen of the respective Committees on Taxation. Meetings of the joint committee shall be held upon the call of the chairman of the joint committee, who shall be a member of the House. The joint committee shall issue periodic reports to each of the houses, indicating the committee's current revenue projections. Such reports shall be issued on the 40th and the 60th day.

7-7. The chairman of each committee has general control and direction of the hall and committee room of the committee over which he presides, subject to the control of the presiding officer under Rule 1-3. Except as provided in Joint Rule 7-6, the chairman of the Senate committee shall be chairman of all joint committees.

7-8. (1) If either house requests a conference and appoints a committee for the purpose of discussing an amendment on which the Senate and the House of Representatives cannot agree, the other house shall appoint a committee for the same purpose. The time and place of all conference committee meetings shall be agreed upon by their chairmen and be announced from the rostrum. This announcement is in order at any time. Failure to make this announcement shall not affect the validity of the legislation. The conference committees, having conferred, shall report to their respective houses the result of their conference. A conference committee shall confine itself to accepting or rejecting each disputed amendment in its entirety.

(2) If either house requests a free conference committee and the other house concurs, appointments will be made the same as above. A free conference committee may discuss a bill in its entirety and is not confined to a particular amendment.

7-9. In joint committees other than the Rules and conference committees, members vote individually and not by houses. Because the rules and conference committees are joint meetings of separate committees, in such committees the committees from each house vote separately. A majority of each committee must agree before any action may be taken unless otherwise specified by individual house rules.

7-10. (1) Conference committee reports must give clerical instructions for enrolling by referring to the reference bill version.

(2) When a conference committee report is filed with the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House, the same shall be read under Order of Business No. 3, select committees, and placed on the calendar for consideration on second reading. If recommended favorably by the Committee of the Whole, it may be considered on third reading the same legislative day. On the final legislative day a conference committee report shall be placed on the calendar for immediate consideration on second reading and shall be further considered on third reading the same legislative day. If a conference committee report is adopted on third reading and the bill is of a type requiring more than a majority vote for passage, the bill shall again be placed on third reading in each house. This third reading vote must be used to determine if the required number of votes has been cast.

7-11. Accredited press representatives may not be excluded from any public legislative meeting or hearing and may not be prohibited from taking photographs, televising, or recording the committee or house hearings, subject to the discretion of the presiding officer in all matters of decorum and order.

7-12. A committee block scheduling system will be implemented in the Senate and the House of Representatives. The schedule will be coordinated between houses and will be adjusted according to the Legislature's workload.

CHAPTER 8

Rules and Journal

8-1. Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings and may, in its discretion, from time to time, publish the same, and the ayes and noes on any question shall, at the request of any two members, be entered on the journal.

8-2. (1) The proceedings of each house which shall be entered on its journal include:

(a) the number of each bill when it is introduced and subsequently considered;

(b) every motion and the name of the member making it;

(c) proposed constitutional amendments which have been voted for by two-thirds of the members (Montana Constitution, Art. XIV, Sec. 8);

(d) committee reports;

(e) roll call votes;

(f) messages from the Governor and the other house;

(g) an entry of the oath taken by the members (section 5-2-214, MCA).

(2) The title of each bill shall be listed in the index of the permanent journals.

8-3. The Bills and Journal Committee of each house shall supply the Legislative Council with the contents of the daily journal to be stored on an automated system. The committee shall examine its journal, distribute a daily journal to all legislators, order correction of any errors, and report each legislative day immediately after roll call.

8-4. The journal of the Senate must be authenticated by the signature of the President, and the journal of the House of Representatives, by the signature of the Speaker. The distribution of the completed journals shall be made by the Legislative Council (sections 5-11-201 through 5-11-203, MCA).

8-5. (1) A joint rule may be repealed or amended only with the concurrence of both houses, under the procedures adopted by each house for the repeal or amendment of its own rules.

(2) A joint rule governing the procedure for handling bills may be temporarily suspended by the consent of two-thirds of the members of either house, insofar as it applies to the house suspending it.

(3) Any rules committee report recommending a change in joint rules shall be referred to the other house for concurrent action. Any new rule or any change in the rules of either house shall be transmitted to the other house for informational purposes.

8-6. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure governs the proceedings of the Senate and the House of Representatives in all cases not covered by these rules.

8-7. The Legislative Council shall codify and publish in one volume the rules of the Senate, the rules of the House of Representatives, and the joint rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Upon adoption, the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives shall provide the office of the Legislative Council with one copy of all motions or resolutions amending Senate, House, or joint rules, and with copies of all minutes and reports of the Rules Committees. After the rules have been published, the Legislative Council shall distribute copies as directed by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

8-8. Pursuant to the authority established in sections 5-11-211 through 5-11-214, MCA, the following fee schedule is established for the legislative proceedings:

(1) One complete set of the proceedings of any regular session, \$475; an additional \$150 is required for mailing.

(2) One complete set of the proceedings of any special session, \$25.

(3) Single copies of bills, resolutions, amendments, status sheets, or other documents may be purchased according to the length of the document as follows:

1-5 pages\$.25

6-15 pages\$.50

16-40 pages\$1.00

41-100 pages\$1.50

101-200 pages\$2.00

Over 200 pages.....\$4.00

Copies of enacted billscost of reproduction.

CHAPTER 9

Voting Procedure

9-1. Except as provided in Joint Rule 9-2, every member present when a question is put shall vote unless the house of which he is a member excuses him.

9-2. A member who has a personal or private interest in any measure or bill proposed or pending before the Legislature shall disclose the fact to the house of which he is a member.

9-3. Amendments to the Montana Constitution may be proposed by any member of the Legislature. If adopted by an affirmative roll call vote of two-thirds of all the members of the Legislature, the amendment shall be deemed approved by the Legislature (Montana Constitution, Art. XIV, Sec. 8).

9-4. When a measure requiring the concurrence of two-thirds of the members is under consideration, a majority vote is sufficient to decide any question relating to the measure short of third reading.

9-5. A roll call vote shall be taken on the request of two members, if the request occurs before the vote is taken.

9-6. On a roll call vote the names of the members shall be called alphabetically, unless an electronic voting system is used. A member may not vote or change his vote after the decision is announced from the chair. A member may not explain his vote until after the decision is announced from the chair.

9-7. (1) On third reading the question shall be stated as follows: "Senate (or House) bill number having been read three several times, the question is, shall the bill pass (or be concurred in)."

(2) If an electronic voting system is used, the signal shall be sounded after the question is stated and then the presiding officer shall state "Those in favor vote yes and those opposed vote no." After a reasonable pause the presiding officer asks "Has every member voted?" (reasonable pause), "Does any member wish to change his or her vote?" (reasonable pause). "The Clerk (Secretary) will now record the vote."

9-8. Two members may pair on a measure that will be determined by a majority vote. On a measure requiring a two-thirds vote for adoption, three members may pair, with two members for the measure and one member against.

Pairing is permitted only when one of the paired members is excused when the vote is taken.

9-9. An agreement to pair must be in writing and dated and signed by the members agreeing to be bound, and must specify the duration of the pair. When an agreement to pair is filed with the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, it shall bind the members signing until the expiration of time for which it was signed, unless the paired members sooner appear and ask that the agreement be cancelled.

9-10. Every vote of each member of the Legislature on each substantive question in the Legislature, in any committee, or in Committee of the Whole shall be recorded and made public. On final passage of any bill or joint resolution the vote shall be taken by ayes and noes and the names entered on the journal. Roll call votes shall be taken by ayes and noes and the names entered on the journal on adopting an adverse committee report and on those motions made in Committee of the Whole referred to in Joint Rule 6-26(1)(a) through (d). A roll call vote shall be taken on nonsubstantive questions on the request of two members, who may likewise on any vote, request that the ayes and noes be spread upon the journal. Roll call votes and other votes which are to be made public but are not specifically required to be spread upon the journal shall be entered in the minutes of the appropriate committee or of the appropriate house and a copy of such minutes shall be filed with the Montana Historical Society (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(2)).

CHAPTER 10

Consent Calendar

10-1. Noncontroversial bills and simple and joint resolutions qualifying for the consent calendar may be processed by a standing committee according to the following provisions:

(1) To be eligible for the consent calendar, the legislation must receive unanimous vote by the members of the standing committee in attendance (do pass, do pass as amended). In addition, a motion must be made and passed unanimously to place the legislation on the consent calendar and this action reflected in the committee report. No appropriation or revenue bills may be recommended for the consent calendar.

(2) The legislation is then sent to be processed and reproduced as a third reading version and specifically marked as a "consent calendar" item.

(3) Legislation shall be immediately posted (as soon as it is received as a third reading version) on the consent calendar and must remain there for 1 legislative day before consideration under Order of Business No. 11, special orders of the day. At that time, the presiding officer will announce consideration of the consent calendar and allow "reasonable time" for questions and answers upon request. No debate will be allowed.

(4) Any three members may submit written objections, and the legislation must then be removed from the consent calendar and added to the regular second reading board.

(5) Consent calendar legislation will be voted on following third reading.

(6) Legislation on the consent calendar will be voted on individually with the roll call vote spread on the journal as the final vote on those bills and resolutions.

(7) Legislation passed on the consent calendar will then be transmitted to the second house.

CHAPTER 11

Statement of Legislative Intent

11-1. Definition. For the purpose of compliance with the Legislative History Act (Title 5, chapter 4, part 4, MCA), a statement of legislative intent regarding a bill will express the common understanding of those components of the Legislature voting on the bill. This statement differs from a purpose clause, which is used in general to describe the broad overall objectives of a bill, while a statement of intent is used to guide the details of interpretation by those charged with implementation of the bill and is phrased in terms of contingencies, examples, or other matter inappropriate for expression as statutory language.

11-2. Limitation. A statement of intent may not accompany any bill that does not statutorily require one unless a committee (standing committee, Committee of the Whole or conference committee) agrees by a two-thirds vote to attach the statement.

11-3. Statement of intent to accompany bill — when — how. A statement shall accompany a bill as follows:

(1) Statements of intent are required for bills delegating new rulemaking or licensing authority.

(2) The standing committee of the house in which the bill originates is responsible for authoring a statement of intent for a bill requiring one.

(3) The statement shall be stored on ALTER, printed, and reproduced on paper of the same color and in the same manner as the bill, and shall be attached to the bill. The statement shall be reproduced on paper of the same color as the bill and attached to the bill on all subsequent reproductions of the bill.

11-4. Modification. Any committee subsequently considering the bill may amend a previous statement. The statement of intent will be reflected in the history of the bill.

11-5. Conference committee on intent only. (1) When the second house concurs in a bill without amendments but amends or supersedes a previous statement of intent, the bill may not be enrolled until both houses have agreed on a statement of intent. If the statement is attached to a bill that does not statutorily require one, the conference committee can delete the statement in its entirety.

(2) A new statement of intent written by the second house will be processed in the same manner as a second house amendment.

(3) A regular conference committee may be appointed solely to resolve differences of intent if the second house's statement of intent is not so accepted.

SENATE RULES

CHAPTER 1

Presiding Officer — Decorum, Order, and Debate

S1-1. (1) The Senate shall choose a President from its membership who shall be the presiding officer. In case of the absence or disqualification of the President, the President pro tempore of the Senate shall perform the duties of the President until the vacancy is filled or the disability removed.

(2) Whenever the President pro tempore of the Senate is of the opposite political party from that of the President, the following procedure applies:

(a) If the President dies while in office, the members of his political party shall have the right to immediately nominate and elect an acting President of the same party.

(b) If the President is absent for two or more legislative days or at any time after the 85th legislative day or at any time during special session of the Legislature but able and desirous of appointing an acting President to act in his absence, he may do so, or the members of his political party shall have the right to immediately nominate and elect an acting President of the same party.

(c) An acting President of the Senate shall have the powers of the President and supersede the powers of the President pro tempore.

S1-2. The Senate shall, at the beginning of each regular session, and at such other times as may be necessary, elect one of its members President pro tempore. The Senate shall choose its other officers and shall be the judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its members.

S1-3. The President or President pro tempore, when acting as presiding officer of the Senate, shall vote as any other member of the Senate.

S1-4. The President may name a Senator to perform the duties of the chair when the President pro tempore is not present in the Senate chamber. The Senator who is so named is vested during such time with all the powers of the President, but he does not lose the right to vote on any question while presiding.

S1-5. No Senator shall speak more than twice on any one motion or question without unanimous consent of the Senate, unless he has introduced or proposed the motion or question under debate, in which case he may speak twice

and also close the debate. However, a Senator who has spoken shall not speak again on the same motion or question to the exclusion of a Senator who has not spoken.

S1-6. On Order of Business No. 8, second reading of bills, in addition to other methods, a recorded vote may be made in the following manner: the chair may call for a voice vote to accept or reject a question. If the vote is other than unanimous, the chair may ask that the lesser number on the question indicate their vote by standing. The secretary will then record the vote of those standing. The chair may then rule that unless excused those not standing and present have voted on the prevailing side of the question and that their vote be recorded as such. If there was a unanimous voice vote, all those present will be recorded as having voted for the question.

S1-7. Only the following persons may be admitted to the floor of the Senate during sessions: legislators, legislative officers and employees whose presence is necessary for the conduct of the business of the session, accredited members of the press, radio, and television, and former legislators. The Rules Committee shall be allowed to make exceptions for visiting dignitaries.

CHAPTER 4

Order of Business

S4-1. On Order of Business No. 2, reports of standing committees, no debate shall be had on any report unless a minority report has been submitted. Any member seeking a reconsideration of the Senate's action on the adoption of a committee report shall do so on Order of Business No. 6 by motion to reconsider. Any member may make such motion and need not have voted on the prevailing side. This rule shall apply notwithstanding any joint rule to the contrary.

CHAPTER 5

Motions

S5-1. All proper motions on second reading are debatable. If a motion to reconsider third reading action on a bill or resolution is carried, there shall be no further action on that bill or resolution until the succeeding legislative day.

CHAPTER 7

Committees

S7-1. The Senate shall elect a Committee on Committees consisting of five members, except when the Senate is evenly divided between parties, when the Committee on Committees shall consist of six members, three from each party. The Committee on Committees, with the approval of the Senate, shall appoint standing and select committees of the Senate and Senate membership on joint committees except conference committees and special committees. The President shall appoint all conference committees and special committees, with the advice of the floor leaders. The Senate may change the membership of any committee on one day's notice.

S7-2. The standing committees of the Senate are as follows:

1. Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
2. Bills and Journal
3. Business and Industry
4. Education and Cultural Resources
5. Finance and Claims
6. Highways and Transportation
7. Judiciary
8. Labor and Employment Relations
9. Legislative Administration
10. Local Government
11. Natural Resources
12. Fish and Game
13. Public Health, Welfare and Safety
14. Rules
15. State Administration
16. Taxation

S7-3. Each floor leader shall be an ex officio member of all committees in order to establish a quorum.

S7-4. When a conference committee report is filed with the Secretary of the Senate, the same shall be read under Order of Business No. 3, select committees, and placed on the calendar the succeeding legislative day for consideration

on second reading. If recommended favorably by the Committee of the Whole, it may be considered on third reading the same legislative day.

S7-5. Pairs in standing committee and Committee of the Whole are prohibited. Standing and select committees may by a majority vote of the committee authorize members to vote in absentia while engaged in other legislative business. Authorization for such voting shall be reflected in the committee minutes.

S7-6. There is a Select Committee on Long-Range Building. The select committee shall meet jointly with the Long-Range Building Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations to make recommendations on issues assigned to the joint subcommittee. The select committee shall consider and make recommendations to the Committee on Finance and Claims concerning issues assigned to it by the President. Select committee members may participate and vote as members of the Committee on Finance and Claims on issues considered by them as members of the select committee.

SENATE RULES

CHAPTER 8 Rules and Journal

S8-1. (1) A motion to amend or adopt a rule of the Senate shall be referred to the Committee on Rules without debate. A rule of the Senate may be amended or adopted only with the concurrence of a majority of the Senate and after 1 day's notice.

(2) A rule may be suspended temporarily by a two-thirds vote.

S8-2. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure governs the proceedings of the Senate in all cases not covered by these rules.

CHAPTER 10

Nominations from the Governor

S10-1. The Governor shall nominate and, by and with the consent of the Senate, appoint all officers whose offices are established by the Montana Constitution or which may be created by law, and for whom appointment or election is not otherwise provided. If during a recess of the Senate a vacancy occurs in any such office, the Governor shall appoint some fit person to discharge the duties thereof until the next meeting of the Senate, when he shall nominate a person to fill such office.

S10-2. When nominations are sent by the Governor to the Senate for confirmation, they shall not be acted on before the next succeeding legislative day, except nominations sent by the Governor on the last legislative day of the session, which shall be acted upon that day.

HOUSE RULES

CHAPTER 1

Presiding Officer — Decorum, Order, and Debate

H1-1. The House of Representatives shall elect one of its members Speaker. The House shall choose its other officers and shall be the judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its members.

H1-2. The House shall elect one of its members Speaker pro tempore, who shall perform all of the duties of the Speaker in the absence of that officer and on such other occasions as the Speaker may request.

H1-3. No member shall speak for longer than 30 minutes in debate on any one motion or question; however, in Committee of the Whole, no member may speak over 5 minutes on any motion except the member who made the motion on the immediately pending question, and that member shall have 5 minutes to close.

H1-4. No member shall speak more than once on the same question without the unanimous consent of the House, unless he has proposed or introduced the immediately pending question, in which case he may speak in reply after all members choosing to speak have spoken.

H1-5. If the motions “do pass” and either “do not pass” or “indefinitely postpone” both fail on second reading, a motion to reconsider is in order in Committee of the Whole.

H1-6. Only the following persons may be admitted to the floor of the House during sessions: legislators; legislative officers and employees whose presence is necessary for the conduct of the business of the session; accredited members of the press, radio, and television; former legislators; and members’ spouses and their children. Exceptions may be made for visiting dignitaries.

CHAPTER 2

Meetings, Quorums, and Attendance

H2-1. Lobbying on the floor of the House of Representatives is prohibited during the session and within 2 hours prior to the commencement of a session and within 2 hours after recess or adjournment.

CHAPTER 3

Committees

H3-1. The standing committees of the House are as follows:

1. Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
2. Appropriations
3. Business and Labor
4. Education and Cultural Resources
5. Fish and Game
6. Highways and Transportation
7. Human Services and Aging
8. Judiciary
9. Legislative Administration/Bills and Journal
10. Local Government
11. Natural Resources
12. Rules
13. State Administration
14. Taxation

The first named member of a committee is the chairman, and in his absence the next named member, and so on.

H3-2. The Committee on Rules shall consist of the Speaker, the majority leader and other members of the majority party appointed by the Speaker, and the minority leader and other members of the minority party designated by the minority leader and appointed by the Speaker. The Speaker shall appoint the members of other standing committees, select committees, and house membership on joint committees and conference committees.

H3-3. The Speaker, majority leader, and minority leader shall be ex officio members on all committees.

H3-4. (1) All bills having "do pass" committee recommendations shall be deemed adopted and shall be placed on second reading unless they are referred to a committee by motion duly made on Order of Business No. 6.

(2) If the committee report is that the bill "do not pass", the committee report will be voted on on Order of Business No. 2.

H3-5. After an amendment to a bill has been adopted in a committee or Committee of the Whole, the amendment

adheres to the bill until it is removed by a specific action of the committee or until final disposition of the bill by the committee.

CHAPTER 4

Rules

H4-1. (1) A motion to amend or adopt a rule of the House shall be referred to the Committee on Rules, which shall report no later than the next legislative day. Unless recommended by the Committee on Rules, no House rule shall be amended or adopted except by a two-thirds vote.

(2) A House rule may be suspended temporarily for a specified purpose by a two-thirds vote.

H4-2. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure governs the proceedings of the House of Representatives in all cases not covered by these rules.

A

Absence of members

- arrest for, 2-9
- attendance may be compelled, 2-5, 2-7
- penalty for unexcused absence, 2-5, 2-9

Adjournment, See also Recess

- convening in another place prohibited, 2-4
- day to day, 2-5
- duration, 2-4
- governor, time to sign or veto bills, 6-30
- lobbying prohibited, **H2-1**
- majority not required, 2-5
- motions for, 2-10, 5-2, 5-4, 5-8

Administrative Rules

- adoption, amendment, or repeal—resolutions or bills requesting or advising, 6-1, 6-7, 6-34
- statements of intent for bills granting new rulemaking authority, 11-3

Adoption of rules, 6-1, S8-1, H4-1

Adverse committee reports, 9-10, H1-5, H3-4

Agency, department, or committee bills, 6-6, 6-7

Aging, Committee on Human Services and, H3-1

Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation—Committees on, S7-2, H3-1

Aides, legislative

- age requirement, 3-11
- identification, 3-11
- lobbying prohibited, 3-12
- registration and designation, 3-11
- telephones, usage, 3-15

Amendments, constitutional, See Constitutional amendments categories

Amendments to bills

- committee amendments, 6-18, 6-19, 6-20
 - adherence to bill, **H3-5**
- committee of the whole amendments, 6-20, 6-23
 - adherence to bill, **H3-5**
- conference committees, request for and authority, 6-18, 7-8
- consideration by committee of the whole, 6-23
- copies, cost, 8-8

Amendments to bills (Continued)

- corrections, procedures, 3-7
- engrossed bills, inclusion, 6-20
- enrolled bills, procedure, 6-21
- fiscal note requests, 6-36
- form, 6-23
- governor's recommendations, 6-30, 6-32
- motions, 5-2, 5-6, 6-26, 9-10
- prohibited when, 6-18, 6-29
- purpose of bill, change by amendment prohibited, 6-
- reference bills, attached to, 6-20
- rejected amendments, 6-18, 6-23
- second house, by, 6-18, 6-20, 11-5
- statements of intent, amendments, 11-4
- substitute bills as, 6-16, 6-17
- third reading of bills
 - amendments prohibited, 6-29
 - second house amendments, 6-18, 6-20
- transmittal, 6-32, 6-34
- $\frac{2}{3}$ vote requirement, procedure, 6-18
- votes on, 6-18

Amendments to laws, 6-2, 6-14, 6-21

Amendments to rules, 6-1, 8-5, 8-7, S8-1, H4-1, See also Rules

Amendments to statements of intent, 11-4, 11-5

Appeal

- order, questions of, 1-4
- presiding officer, decision of, 5-8
- previous question, calling, 5-6

Appointments by Governor, senate confirmation, 6-1, 6-7, S10-1, S10-2

Apportionment and districting recommendations, resolutions for, 6-1

Appropriation bills

- amendments and transmittal, 6-34
- committee consideration, 7-6
- consent calendar, exclusion, 10-1
- contents, 6-3, 6-4
- deadline exception, 6-7
- drafting requests, deadline exception, 6-7
- effective dates, 6-5
- feed bill, 6-4, 7-1
- fiscal notes, 6-36

INDEX TO RULES

appropriation bills (Continued)

- general appropriation act, bills implementing provisions
 - drafting requests and introduction, deadlines, 6-7
 - transmittal and amendments, 6-34
- general appropriation bills, 6-4
- introduction, 6-4, 6-6, 6-7
- item veto, 6-30
- legislative operation, for, 6-4, 7-1
- line item veto, 6-30
- origin, house of, 6-4
- subject, 6-3, 6-4
- title, 6-2, 6-3
- transmittal, 6-34

appropriations for legislative expenses, 6-4, 7-1

appropriations, House Committee on

- appropriation bills, consideration, 7-6
- chairman, 7-6
- enumeration, H3-1
- financial reports to, 3-14
- joint committee when, 7-6
- legislative operation bills, introduction, 6-4
- minutes, entry of roll call votes, 9-10
- senate long-range building select committee, joint meetings with subcommittee, S7-6

archives, See Historical Society

arrest of members, 2-9

assistant Sergeants-at-Arms, 3-9

attendance of members

- compelled, 2-5, 2-7, 2-9
- refusal, 2-9
- required, 2-6

Automated Legal Text Entry and Revision (ALTER), 6-2, 6-6, 6-21, 8-3, 11-3

B

bill clerks, 3-6

bills and Journal, Senate Committee on, S7-2

bills Committees of the House and Senate

- engrossing of bills, 6-20
 - staff under direction of, 3-3
- enrolling of bills, 6-21
 - staff under direction of, 3-3

INDEX TO RULES

Bills Committees of the House and Senate (Continue

enumeration, **S7-2, H3-1**

governor, presentation of bills to, 6-21

journal, duties regarding, 8-3

printing of bills, 6-19

reports by, 7-5, 8-3

Blue bills, 6-20, 11-3

Budget Director, fiscal note preparation, 6-36

Buildings, approval of construction, 6-1

Business, See also **Sessions**

order of, 4-1, See **Order of business**

suspended when, 2-10

Business and Industry, Committee on, **S7-2**

Business and Labor, Committee on, **H3-1**

C

Calendar of bills, See also **Consent calendar**

second reading, 6-22, 7-10, **S7-4**

third reading, 6-20, 7-10

Call of the house

arrest of members when, 2-9

business suspended, 2-10

committee reports not allowed, 7-5

motions for, 5-2, 5-8

motions not in order, exceptions, 2-10

not in order when, 5-7

order for, 2-7, 2-8, 2-10

removal, 2-10

Call to order, 1-1, 1-6

Chambers, control, 1-3

Chaplain's duties, 1-1, 3-10, 4-1

Chapter numbers, 6-21

Chief Clerk of the House

aides registered with, 3-11

bills

amendments, 6-23

clerical corrections, notification and objection, 3-

custodian, 3-5

delivery to secretary of state, 3-5

first reading, 6-10

introduction by presentation to, 6-6

INDEX TO RULES

Chief Clerk of the House (Continued)

- public posting of introduced bills, 6-10
- rejected amendments, procedures, 6-23
- second reading
 - amendments, 6-23
 - recording, 6-22
- supervision, 3-5
- transmittal, receipt for, 6-33
- committee minutes, duties, 3-5, 7-4
- conference committees
 - minutes, duties, 3-5
 - reports, filing, 7-10
- debate, recording of excepted words, 1-6
- documents, custodian, 3-5
- duties generally, 3-5
- employees responsible to, 3-6
- journal, supervision and delivery to secretary of state, 3-5
- pairing votes, agreements filed with, 9-9
- records, custodian, 3-5
- rejected amendments, procedures, 6-23
- resolutions
 - delivery to secretary of state, 3-5
 - supervision, 3-5
 - transmittal to secretary of state, 6-1
- responsible to whom, 3-5
- rules, amendments to—duty, 8-7
- rules committee minutes and reports, duty, 8-7
- secretary of state, transmittals to, 3-5, 6-1

Children, admission to floor, H1-6

Clerical errors on bills, 3-7, 6-20, 6-21, 6-36

Clerk of the Supreme Court, signed copies of enrolled bills filed with, 6-21

De Commissioner bills, 6-2, 6-3, 6-6

Editor of bills

- cover of bills, 6-2, 6-21
- engrossed bills, 6-20
- enrolled bills, cover of, 6-21
- introduced bills, 6-2
- reference bills, 6-20
- second reading bills, 6-19
- statements of intent, 11-3
- third reading bills, 6-20

Editor of fiscal notes, 6-37

INDEX TO RULES

Committee of the Whole, See also Second reading of bills

- amendments to bills, adherence, **H3-5**
- chairman, appointment, 6-27
- conference committee reports, 7-10
- debate, length of, 6-26, **H1-3**
- formation, 6-26, 6-27
- governor's recommendations on bills, applicability of rules, 6-32
- intent, statements of, See **Statements of intent**
- meetings to be public, 2-3, 7-11
- motions
 - formation by, 6-26
 - in order, 6-26, 9-10
 - not debatable, 5-8
- pairs prohibited, **S7-5**
- public meetings, 2-3, 7-11
- reports, 6-24, 6-25, 6-27
- resolutions report, 6-1
- rules governing, 6-26
- second readings, See **Second reading of bills**
- subcommittees, appointment prohibited, 6-26
- voice vote, 9-6, **S1-6**
- vote, 9-6, **S1-6, S7-5**
- voting records, public, 9-10

Committees, Committee on

- committees, appointment, **S7-1**
- selection, **S7-1**

Committees, generally, See also specific committee

- adverse committee reports, 9-10, **H1-5, H3-4**
- amendments to bills, 3-7
 - adherence, **H3-5**
- appointment, **S7-1, H3-2**
- assignment of bills to. See **referral of bills to committee, in this category**
- bills by
 - drafting requests, 6-6, 6-7
 - general appropriation bill provisions, to implement 6-7, 6-34
 - introduction, 6-6, 6-9
 - deadlines, 6-7
 - sponsor, primary, 3-7
 - vote required, 6-9
- block scheduling system, 7-12
- chairmen
 - authority and duties, 7-7
 - minutes, authentication, 7-4

Committees, generally (Continued)

- secretaries of committees, responsibility to, 3-3, 3-6
- selection, **H3-1**
- sponsor of bill, principal — when, 3-7
- change of membership, notice, **S7-1**
- consideration of bills. See referral of bills to committee, in this category
- “do not pass” recommendations, 9-10, **H1-5, H3-4**
- “do pass” recommendations, 6-19, 6-20, 10-1, **H1-5, H3-4**
- enumeration, **S7-2, H3-1**
- fiscal note requests, 6-36
- floor leaders as ex officio members, **S7-3, H3-3**
- in absentia votes, authorization, **S7-5**
- interim studies, See **Interim committees**
- joint committees
 - appointment, 7-6, **S7-1, H3-2**
 - chairmen, 7-6, 7-7
 - composition, 7-6
 - minutes, 7-4
 - reports, 7-6
 - revenue estimation resolutions, consideration, 7-6
 - voting procedure, 7-9
- meetings
 - announcement of, order of business, 4-1
 - press not to be excluded, 7-11
 - public, to be, 2-3
 - television, photographs, or recording allowed when, 7-11
- membership, **S7-1, S7-2, S7-3, H3-2, H3-3**
- minutes, 3-5, 7-4, 9-10
 - original copy, 7-4
 - required, 7-4
 - roll call votes, recording, 9-10
 - votes in absentia, authorization, **S7-5**
- original copy of minutes, 7-4
- press not to be excluded from hearings, 7-11
- referral of bills to committee
 - amendments by committee, 6-18, 6-19, 6-20
 - assignment of committee, 6-10, 6-12, 6-13, 6-34
 - motions for, precedence, 5-2
 - order of business, 4-1
 - reports of committee
 - adoption, **S4-1, H3-4**
 - adverse reports, 9-10, **H1-5, H3-4**
 - deadline, 7-2

Committees, generally (Continued)

- debate, **S4-1**
- "do not pass", 9-10, **H1-5, H3-4**
- "do pass", 6-19, 6-20, 10-1, **H1-5, H3-4**
- extension of time, 7-2
- form, 7-2
- journal entry, 7-3, 8-2
- minority reports, 7-3, **S4-1**
- order of business, 4-1
- reconsideration, **S4-1**
- seven-day rule, 7-2
- sponsors of bills, addition prior to, 6-6
- substitute bills, recommendation, 6-17
- required, 6-11
- rereferral, 6-13
- transmittal, effect, 6-34
- referral of resolutions to committee, 6-1
- reports, See also referral of bills to committee, in this category
 - journal entry, 7-3, 8-2
 - order of business, 4-1, **S4-1**
- rooms, 7-7
- secretaries, 3-3, 3-6, 7-4
- select committees
 - appointment, **S7-1, H3-2**
 - conference committee reports, 7-10
 - reports, order of business, 4-1, **S7-4**
 - senate long-range building, **S7-6**
 - votes in absentia, **S7-5**
- seven-day rule, 7-2
- speaker of the house as ex officio member, **H3-3**
- special committees
 - appointment, **S7-1**
 - secretaries, 3-3, 3-6
- sponsors of bills
 - additional, approval, 6-6
 - committees as, 3-7
- standing committees
 - appointment, **S7-1, H3-2**
 - consent calendar bills, procedures, 10-1
 - enumeration, **S7-2, H3-1**
 - house, enumeration, **H3-1**
 - intent, statements of, See **Statements of intent**
 - introduction of bill, $\frac{3}{4}$ consent, 6-9
 - pairs prohibited, **S7-5**
 - reports, See also referral of bills to committee, in this category
 - consent calendar bills, 10-1

Committees, generally (Continued)

- order of business, 4-1
- requests for, 7-2
- sponsors of bills, addition prior to, 6-6
- secretaries, 3-3, 3-6
- senate, enumeration, **S7-2**
- seven-day rule, 7-2
- sponsors of bills, additional, 6-6
- vote required for bill introduction, 6-9
- votes in absentia, **S7-5**
- statements of intent, vote to attach, 11-2
- subcommittees, 6-26, 7-4
- substitute bills, recommendation, 6-16, 6-17
- television, photographs, or recording allowed when, 7-11
- testimony by employees, 3-12
- votes in absentia, authorization, **S7-5**
- voting records, public, 9-10

Communications or papers

- address, reading, and distribution, 1-9
- order of business, 4-1

Compensation

- certification of payroll, 3-14
- employees, 3-1, 6-1, 7-1
- legislative administration, committee on—duties, 7-1
- legislative council, duties, 3-14
- officers, 3-1
- preparation of payroll, 3-14
- resolutions to set, 6-1
- signing of payroll, 3-14
- unexcused absence, effect, 2-9

Conduct of members

- committee of the whole, discipline prohibited, 6-26
- conflict of interest, 9-2
- questions of privilege, 1-7

Conference Committees

- appointment, 7-8, 11-5, **S7-1, H3-2**
- authority, 7-8
- chairmen, 7-8
- free conference committees
 - appointment, 7-8
 - authority, 7-8
 - requests for, 6-32
- intent, statements of, See **Statements of intent**
- meetings, time and place, 7-8
- minutes, disposition, 3-5

Conference Committees (Continued)

- reports, 6-32, 7-5, 7-8, 7-10
 - order of business, 7-10, S7-4
- requests for, 6-18, 6-32, 7-8, 11-5
- voting procedure, 7-9

Conflict of interest, disclosure, 9-2

Consent calendar

- order of business, 4-1, 10-1
- procedure, 10-1
- second reading, posting exception, 6-22
- three readings, exception, 6-29

Constitutional amendments, Montana

- approval, 9-3
- governor
 - signature not required, 6-30
 - veto, not subject to, 6-3
- journal entries, 8-2
- proposal, 6-3, 9-3
- vote on, 6-28, 8-2, 9-3

Constitutional amendments, United States

- governor's signature not required, 6-30
- journal entries, 8-2
- resolutions to propose or ratify, 6-1

Construction of state buildings, resolutions for, 6-1

Contracts for purchase or lease of equipment, 3-15

Convening hour, 2-1

Copies of bills and proceedings, fees, 8-8

Copies of bills, number

- enrolled bills, 6-21
- first page only reproduced, 6-19, 6-20
- fiscal notes, bills requiring, 6-36
- introduced bills, 6-2, 6-6

Corrections on bills, procedure, 3-7, 6-20, 6-21, 6-36

Cosponsors, 6-6, See also Sponsors, bill

Cover of bills, 6-2, 6-6, 6-21

Cultural Resources, Committees on Education and, S7-2, H3-1

D

Deadlines

- adjournment, duration, 2-4

Deadlines (Continued)

- amendments, transmittal, 6-34
- appropriation act, general — bills implementing provisions — drafting requests, introduction, transmittal, and amendments, 6-7, 6-34
- appropriation bills and bills implementing provisions of general appropriations bills, transmittal and amendments, 6-34
- budget director, fiscal note preparation, 6-36
- committee bills and resolutions, drafting requests and introduction, 6-7
- committee bills implementing provisions of general appropriations bills, drafting requests and introduction, 6-7
- committee membership, notice of change, **S7-1**
- committee of the whole
 - consideration, 6-22
 - debate, **H1-3**
- committee revenue bills, drafting requests and introduction, 6-7
- conference committee reports, action following, **S7-4**
- consent calendar bills, posting, 10-1
- corrections on bills or amendments, objections, 3-7
- debate
 - committee of the whole, **H1-3**
 - question debatable and no debate, 5-6
- drafting requests to legislative council, 6-7
- engrossing and enrolling of bills, 3-7, 6-21
- enrolled bills, signing and transmittal, 6-21
- fiscal note preparation, 6-36
 - sponsor's fiscal note, 6-37
- five bill limit, exception, 6-6
- governor
 - nominations, senate confirmation, **S10-2**
 - signing or veto of bills, 6-30
 - transmittal of bills to, 6-21
- introduction of bills, 6-7
- lobbying prohibitions, 2-2, **H2-1**
- printing of bills, 6-19
- recess, duration, 2-4
- reconsideration on third reading, action, **S5-1**
- reconsider, motions to, 5-4
- reporting out of committee, referred bills, 7-2
- reproduction of bills, 6-19
- resolutions
 - drafting requests and introductions, 6-7
 - revenue estimation, transmittal and amendments, 6-34

Deadlines (Continued)

- revenue bills—drafting requests, introduction,
transmittal, and amendments, 6-7, 6-34
- revenue estimation, joint committee on — reports, 7-6
- revenue estimation, joint resolutions for — transmittal
and amendments, 6-34
- rules, adoption or amendment
 - reports on, **H4-1**
 - senate, notice, **S8-1**
- second reading consideration, twenty-four hour rule,
6-22
- seven-day rule, 7-2
- signing of bills by governor, 6-30
- transmittal
 - amendments, 6-34
 - bills, 6-34
 - governor, to, 6-21
- twenty-four hour rule, second reading consideration,
6-22
- veto of bills by governor, 6-30

Debate, See also Speaking limitations on members

- call to order, 1-6
- closed when, 5-6, 5-8
- committee reports, on, **S4-1**
- communications or papers, 1-9
- consent calendar, prohibited, 10-1
- house rules, **H1-3, H1-4**
- limit of, 5-6, 5-8, **S1-5, H1-3**
- motions, debate of, **S1-5, S5-1, H1-3**
- motions during, 5-2
- motions not debatable, 5-8
- question, moving closes debate, 5-6
- reports of standing committees, **S4-1**
- rule amendments, no debate, **S8-1**
- senate rules, **S1-5, S4-1, S5-1**
- speaking more than once, **H1-4**
- speaking more than twice, **S1-5**
- time limitation on, 5-6, 5-8, **H1-3**
- undebatable motions, 5-8

Department bills, 6-6

“Did sign”, 6-21

Dignitaries, visiting — admission to floor, S1-7, H1-6

Disasters and emergencies. resolutions, 6-1

Disorderly conduct. 1-2, 1-3, 6-26

Distribution of

- bills, 6-2, 6-20, 6-22
- fiscal notes, 6-36, 6-37
- journals, 8-3, 8-4
- lobbying papers, 1-9
- rules, 8-7

Districting and apportionment plan

- recommendations, resolutions for, 6-1

Disturbance of proceedings, 1-2, 1-3, 3-8, 6-26, 7-7, 7-11**Division of question when, 5-8, 5-9****Documents, fee schedule, 8-8****"Do Not Pass" committee recommendations, 9-10,
H1-5, H3-4****Doorkeepers**

- aides' identification, enforcement, 3-11
- responsible to whom, 3-9

**"Do Pass" committee recommendations, 6-19, 6-20,
10-1, H1-5, H3-4****Drafting of bills**

- fiscal note recommendations, 6-36
- requests to legislative council, 6-6
 - deadlines, 6-7
- sponsor required, 6-2, See **Sponsors, bill**

Duplicate bills, introduction prohibited when, 6-8

E

**Education and Cultural Resources, Committees on,
S7-2, H3-1****Effective dates**

- appropriation bills, 6-5
- joint resolutions, 6-5
- statutes, 6-5

Election of members, S1-2, H1-1**Emergencies, resolutions for, 6-1****Employees**

- compensation, 3-1, 6-1, 7-1. See also **Compensation**
- complaints regarding, 3-13
- dismissal, suspension, or retention, 3-12, 3-13
- duties, 3-1
- floor, admission to, **S1-7, H1-6**

Employees (Continued)

- housekeeping functions, responsibility for, 3-9
- legislative administration, committee on
 - duties, 7-1
 - joint committees, employment by, 3-6
- legislative council, responsibility, 3-2, 7-1
- lobbying prohibited, 3-12
- personnel files, 3-2
- responsible to whom, 3-6, 3-9, 7-1
- telephones, usage, 3-15
- terms of employment, 6-1

Employment Relations, Committee on Labor and, S7-2**Enacting clause, 6-3****Endorsement of bills, See Sponsors, bill****Energy emergencies, resolutions for, 6-1****Engrossing and enrolling**

- conference committee reports, clerical instructions, 7-10
- deadlines, 3-7, 6-21
- form, 6-20, 6-21
- history of bill, inclusion, 6-21
- procedure, 6-20, 6-21
- signing and journal entry, 6-21
- staff
 - duties, 3-7
 - employment, 3-3
 - responsible to whom, 3-3
- statements of intent, effect, 11-5

Equipment, contracts for purchase or lease, 3-15**Errors, 3-7, 6-20, 6-21, 6-36****Excuse of members, 2-6, 2-9, 9-1, 9-8, 9-9****Expenses of members, See Compensation****F****Fee schedule for proceedings, 8-8****Final rejection of bills, 5-2, 6-8, 6-35****Finance and Claims, Senate Committee on**

- appropriation bills, consideration, 7-6
- enumeration, **S7-2**
- financial reports to, 3-14

Finance and Claims, Senate Committee on (Continued)

joint committee when, 7-6

long-range building, senate select committee on —
recommendations and voting, **S7-6**

First reading of bills, 6-10, 6-29

order of business, 4-1

Fiscal notes, 6-36, 6-37**Fish and Game, Committees on, S7-2, H3-1****Five bill limit, 6-6****Floor, admission to, 2-2, S1-7, H1-6, H2-1****Floor leaders, ex officio members of committees, S7-3,**

See also **Majority leader; Minority leader**

Former legislators, admission to floor, S1-7, H1-6**Form of bills, 6-2, 6-3, 6-6, 6-19, 6-20, 6-21, 10-1, 11-3**

G

“Gag rule”, H1-3**Galleries, clearance, 1-2****Governor**

amendments to bills, recommendations, 6-30, 6-32

communications from, 1-9

enrolled bills, presentation and receipt, 6-21

line item veto, 6-30

messages from

debate allowed, 1-9

journal entry, 8-2

order of business, 4-1

nominations and appointments by, senate

confirmation, 6-1, 6-7, **S10-1, S10-2**

reconsideration of bills, 6-30, 6-32

resolutions, approval not required, 6-1

signing of bills, 6-30

veto of bills, 6-3, 6-8, 6-30, 6-31

H

Health, Committees on

human services and aging, **H3-1**

public health, welfare, and safety, **S7-2**

Hearings

press not to be excluded, 7-11

Hearings (Continued)

public, to be, 2-3

television, photographs, or recording allowed when,
7-11

**Highways and Transportation, Committees on, S7-2,
H3-1****Historical Society**

committee minutes, original copies filed with, 3-5, 7-4,
9-10

rejected amendments filed with, 6-23

Histories of bills, 6-21, 11-4**Hour of convening, 2-1****Human Services and Aging, Committee on, H3-1****I****Identical bills, introduction prohibited when, 6-8****Industry, Committee on Business and, S7-2****Information available to public, See Public
accessibility****Intent, statements of, See Statements of intent****Interim committees**

bills, 6-7

studies

request for, 6-1

resolutions concerning, 6-7, 6-34

Internal affairs of houses, resolutions for, 6-1**Interns, legislative, 3-11, 3-12, 3-15****Introduction of bills**

agency bills, 6-6

appropriation bills, 6-4, 6-6, 6-7

code commissioner bills, 6-6

color of paper for bills, 6-2

committee bills, 6-6, 6-9

deadlines, 6-7

deadlines, 6-7

department bills, 6-6

distribution, 6-2

duplicate bills, prohibited when, 6-8

fiscal notes, 6-36

form, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 6-6

identical bills, prohibited when, 6-8

Introduction of bills (Continued)

- journal entry, 8-2
- limitation on number, 6-6
- numbering, 6-6
- preintroduction, 6-6
- preparation for, 6-2, 6-6
- prohibited when, 6-8
- public posting of bills, 6-10
- referral to committee, See **Committees, generally**
- revenue bills, 6-6
 - deadlines, 6-7
- review by legislative council, 6-6
- signatures on bills, 6-6, See **Sponsors, bill**
- similar bills, prohibited when, 6-8
- sponsors, See **Sponsors, bill**
- stamp of legislative council review required, 6-6
- triplicate, to be in, 6-2, 6-6

Introduction of resolutions, 6-1, 6-6, 6-7**Item veto, 6-30****J****Janitors, 3-9****Joint committees, See Committees, generally****Joint resolutions, See Resolutions****Joint rules, See Rules****Joint sponsors, 6-6. See also Sponsors, bill****Journal**

- authentication, 8-4
- automated legal text entry and revision (ALTER), 8-3
- bills and journal committee responsibilities, 8-3
- clerks, 3-6
- committee reports, entry, 7-3, 8-2
- consent calendar bills, vote on, 10-1
- constitutional amendments, entry, 8-2
- contents, generally, 8-1, 8-2
- daily maintenance, 8-3
- distribution, 8-3, 8-4
- enrolled bills, entry, 6-21
- governor
 - bills presented to, 6-21
 - messages from, entry, 8-2
- introduction of bills, entry, 8-2
- legislative council responsibilities, 8-3, 8-4

Journal (Continued)

- messages, entry, 8-2
- motions, entry, 8-2
- number of each bill, entry, 8-2
- oaths, entry, 8-2
- publication, 8-1
- report for previous day, 1-1, 4-1, 8-3
- required, 8-1
- roll call votes, entry, 8-2, 9-10, 10-1
- secretary of state, delivery to, 3-5
- signing of bill, entry, 6-21
- supervision, 3-5
- title of bill entered in index, 8-2
- votes, entry, 6-28, 8-1, 8-2, 9-10, 10-1

Journal clerks, 3-6

Judiciary, Committees on, S7-2, H3-1

L

Labor and Employment Relations, Committee on, S7-2

Labor, Committee on Business and, H3-1

Labor disputes, resolutions for, 6-1

Law Library

- committee minutes, copies to, 7-4
- histories of bills filed with, 6-21

Laws

- amendment or revision, 6-2, 6-14, 6-21
- effective dates, 6-5
- enacting clause, 6-3
- enactment, 6-11, 6-15, 6-21, 6-28, 6-30
- purpose, change prohibited, 6-15
- repeal, 6-2

Lay on the table, motions to, 5-2, 5-5, 5-8

Leadership. See Floor leaders; Majority leader; Minority leader; President of the Senate; President Pro Tempore of the Senate; Presiding officers; Speaker of the House; Speaker Pro Tempore of the House

Legislative Administration/Bills and Journal, House Committee on, H3-1

Legislative Administration Committees of the House and Senate

- duties, 7-1

Legislative Administration Committees of the House and Senate (Continued)

- employees, responsibilities concerning, 3-6, 3-13
- enumeration, **S7-2, H3-1**
- equipment purchase and lease contracts, approval, 3-15
- joint committees, 3-6
- secretaries, appointment, 3-3

Legislative Administration, Senate Committee on, S7-2**Legislative aides, See Aides, legislative****Legislative Council**

- accounting records, 3-15
- administrative duties, 7-1
- committee minutes, copies to, 7-4
- drafting requests
 - deadlines, 6-7
 - number, limitation, 6-6
- engrossing and enrolling staff, hiring, 3-3
- enrolled bills, signed copies filed with, 6-21
- financial reports by, 3-14
- fiscal notes, duties, 6-36, 6-37
- histories of bills, filing, 6-21
- introduced bills, review, 6-6
- journal, daily—maintenance and distribution, 8-3, 8-4
- legislative administration, committee on—cooperation with, 7-1
- payroll duties, 3-14
- personnel files, responsibility, 3-2
- preintroduced bills, duties, 6-6
- purchase orders, issuance, 3-15
- review of bills and resolutions, 6-6
- rules and joint rules—codification, publication, and distribution, 8-7
- service to the legislature, 3-14

Legislative day, what constitutes, 2-11**Legislative intent, See Statements of intent****Legislative interns, 3-11, 3-12, 3-15****Licensing authority, new—statements of intent for bills granting, 11-3****Line item veto, 6-30****Livestock and Irrigation, Committees on Agriculture, S7-2, H3-1****Lobbies, clearance, 1-2**

Lobbying

- aides, employees, and interns—by, prohibited, 3-12
- papers, distribution, 1-9
- time limitations, 2-2, **H2-1**

Local Government, Committees on, S7-2, H3-1

Long-Range Building, Senate Select Committee on, S7-6

M

Majority leader

- committees, ex officio member, **H3-3**
- rules committee, member of, **H3-2**
- secretary, 3-4, 3-6

Majority, when required, See Voting

Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure, use, 8-6, S8-2, H4-2

MCA, See Laws

Meetings, See Sessions

Messages from governor, See Governor

Messages from other house, 1-9, 4-1, 8-2

Minority leader

- committees, ex officio member, **H3-3**
- rules committee, member of, **H3-2**
- secretary, 3-4, 3-6

Minutes

- filing, 3-5, 7-4, 8-7, 9-10
- votes in absentia, **S7-5**

Motions

- adjourn, to, 2-10, 5-2, 5-4, 5-8
- amendment or substitution of motions, 5-3, 5-8, 5-10
- amendments to bills, 5-2, 5-6, 6-26, 9-10
- bills, motions on, 6-6, 6-10, 6-24
- call of the house, 5-2, 5-8
 - motions not in order, 2-10
 - removal, 2-10
- commit a bill, to, 5-2
- committee of the whole, **See Committee of the Whole**
- concurrence or nonconcurrence, 6-26, 9-10
- consent calendar, placement on, 10-1
- debate—limit, extend limit, or close, 5-8, **H1-3**

Motions (Continued)

- debate, motions during, 5-2
- debate of motions, 5-8, **S5-1, H1-3, See Debate**
- divide the question, when, 5-8, 5-9
- "do pass" or "do not pass", failure on second reading, **H1-5**
- first reading, motion in order when, 6-10
- incidental motions, 5-8
- indefinitely postpone, **See Postpone, motions to**
- journal entries, 8-2
- lay on the table, to, 5-2, 5-5, 5-8
- main motion and modifying motions, 5-10
- nonconcurrence or concurrence, 6-26, 9-10
- nonpassage or passage, 6-26, 9-10
- not debatable, 5-8
- order of business, 4-1
- parliamentary inquiry, 5-8
- passage or nonpassage, 6-26, 9-10
- pass consideration, 6-26
- point of order, 5-8
- postpone, **See Postpone, motions to**
- precedence, 5-2, 5-4
- presiding officer
 - decisions not debatable, 5-8
 - restatement by, 5-1
- previous question, **See Previous question**
- privileged motions, precedence, 5-2
- privilege, questions of, 5-2
- procedural motions, undebatable, 5-8
- question, calling, **See Previous question**
- question, debate of—motions allowable, 5-2
- recall, to—precedence and procedure, 5-4
- recess, for, 4-1, 5-2, 5-4, 5-8
- reconsider, to
 - bills or resolutions indefinitely postponed, 5-2
 - committee of the whole, in order when, **H1-5**
 - committee report adoption, **S4-1**
 - laid on table or fails, 5-5
 - precedence, 5-4
 - procedure, 5-4
 - third reading action, **S5-1**
 - withdrawal, 5-4
- refer or commit, to, 5-2, **H3-4**
- remove the call of the house, to, 2-10
- restatement, 5-1
- rise, rise and report, rise and report and ask leave to sit again, 6-26

Motions (Continued)

rules

- amendment or adoption, 8-7, **S8-1, H4-1**
- suspension, 5-8
- second reading, 6-26, **S5-1, H1-5**
- segregate a bill, to, 6-24
- speaking limitations, **S1-5, H1-3**
- sponsors of bills, to add, 6-6, 6-10
- subject different from that under consideration,
 - motions not admitted, 5-3
- subsidiary, 5-2, 5-6
- substitute, limitations, 5-3, 5-10
- tabling, 5-2, 5-5, 5-8
- take from the table, to
 - not debatable, 5-8
 - reconsider, motions to, 5-5
- undebatable motions, 5-8
- veto, to override, 6-31
- withdrawal, 5-1, 5-4
- written, request for, 5-1

N

Natural Resources, Committees on, S7-2, H3-1

New matter in bills substituted when, 6-16, 6-17

Newspaper reporters, See Reporters

**Nominations by governor, senate confirmation, 6-1, 6-7,
S10-1, S10-2**

Numbering of bills, 6-6, 6-21

- calendar, arrangement on, 6-22
- journal entry, 8-2
- pages, 6-2

Number of bill copies

- enrolled bills, 6-21
- first page only reproduced, 6-19, 6-20
- introduced bills, 6-2, 6-6

O

Oaths, journal entry, 8-2

Officers

- compensation, 3-1
- duties, 3-1
- floor, admission to, **S1-7, H1-6**

Officers (Continued)house, **H1-1, H1-6**senate, **S1-2, S1-7****One subject expressed in bill, 6-3, 6-4, 6-16****Open meetings, sessions, and hearings required, 2-3, 7-11, S1-7, H1-6****Order in proceedings, 1-2, 1-3, 3-8, 6-26, 7-7, 7-11****Order of business, 1-1, 4-1**adverse committee report consideration, **H3-4**committee reports, debate reconsideration after adoption, **S4-1**conference committee appointments and reports, 7-8, 7-10, **S7-4**

consent calendar bills, 10-1

enumeration, 4-1

journal report, 8-3

pass or revert to new order of business, 4-1

recall or reconsideration of bills, 5-4

twelve orders of business, enumeration, 4-1

votes, recorded—manner of making, **S1-6****Order, questions of, 1-4****Original copy**

bills, 6-2, 6-6

minutes, 7-4

P**Pages, 3-9****Pairing of votes, 9-8, 9-9, S7-5, See also Voting****Papers or communications, 1-9, 4-1****Parliamentary procedure. See Debate; Motions****Payrolls, See Compensation****Per diem, See Compensation****Petitions. See Communications or papers****Photographs of proceedings allowed, 7-11****Place of convening, 2-4****Poll of legislators following governor's veto, 6-30****Postpone, motions to**

bills or resolutions, effect on, 5-2

indefinitely, 5-2, 6-26, 9-10, **H1-5**

to a certain day, 5-2

Prayer by chaplain, 1-1, 3-10, 4-1

Preintroduced bills, 6-6

President of the Senate, See also Presiding officers

absence, **S1-1**

acting, **S1-1**

committees, conference and special—appointment, **S7-1**

conference committees, appointment, **S7-1**

disqualification, **S1-1**

election, **S1-1**

journals, authentication, 8-4

long-range building, senate select committee on —
issues assigned to, **S7-6**

presiding officer, as, 1-1, **S1-1**

selection, **S1-1**

senator to perform duties of chair when, **S1-4**

special committees, appointment, **S7-1**

vacancy, **S1-1**

vote, **S1-3**

President Pro Tempore of the Senate

absence, **S1-4**

duties as president performed when, **S1-1**

superseded by acting president when, **S1-1**

election, **S1-2**

opposite political party from that of president, when
of—procedures, **S1-1**

vote, **S1-3**

**Presiding officers, 1-1, S1-1, H1-1, See also President
of the Senate; Speaker of the House**

aides, approval when, 3-11

call to order, 1-6

chief clerk of the house responsible to, 3-5

clerical corrections to bills, 6-21

committee of the whole, appointment of chairman and
reception of report, 6-27

communications or papers to legislature, 1-9

consent calendar consideration, announcement, 10-1

control

chambers, 1-3

committee rooms, 7-7

decisions not debatable, 5-8

“did sign”, 6-21

employees responsible to, 3-6, 3-9

engrossing and enrolling bills, approval of time
extension, 3-7

enrolled bills, duties, 3-7, 6-21

Presiding officers (Continued)

- equipment purchase or lease contracts, review, 3-15
- fiscal notes, duties, 6-36, 6-37
- galleries or lobbies, clearance, 1-2
- journals, authentication, 8-4
- motions, restatement, 5-1
- order and decorum. preservation, 1-2, 1-3, 3-8, 7-7, 7-11
- payrolls, certification and signature, 3-14
- press, authority over, 1-3, 7-11
- previous question, determination of quorum, 5-7
- questions of order, decision, 1-4
- recognition of members to speak, 1-5
- referral of bills to committee, 6-12, 6-34
- reporters, authority over, 1-3, 7-11
- secretaries, 3-4, 3-6
- secretary of the senate responsible to, 3-5
- senator to perform duties of chair when, **S1-4**
- sergeants-at-arms responsible to, 3-8, 3-9
- subpoenas, signing, 1-8
- television, photographs, or recordings subject to discretion of, 7-11
- veto message read by, 6-31
- vote
 - procedures, 1-10, 9-7
 - senator as presiding officer, **S1-4**

Press representatives, See Reporters**Previous question**

- call of the house not in order, 5-7
- debatable question on which there has been no debate. 5-6
- motions for, 5-2, 5-8
- moving, effect. 5-6
- ordered when, 5-6

Printing of bills

- automated legal text entry and revision (ALTER), 6-2, 6-6, 6-21, 11-3
- color of paper, **See Color of bills**
- consent calendar bills, 10-1
- deadline, 6-19
- first sheet only, when, 6-19, 6-20
- fiscal notes, 6-36, 6-37
- preintroduced bills, 6-6
- statements of intent. 11-3
- substitute bills, 6-17

Private interest in pending measures, disclosure, 9-2

Privilege, questions of, 1-7, 5-2

Proceedings

fee schedule, 8-8

journal of, See **Journal**

Process, service, 3-8

Property of legislature, 7-1

Proposed legislation, papers for or against, 1-9

Public accessibility

introduced bills, 6-10

preintroduced bills, 6-6

press not to be excluded, 7-11, **S1-7, H1-6**

sessions of legislature, committee meetings, and

hearings open to public, 2-3, 7-11, **S1-7, H1-6**

voting records, 9-10

Public Health, Welfare, and Safety—Committee on, S7-2

Purchase orders, 3-15

Purpose clause, use, 11-1

Purpose of bill, change prohibited, 6-15

Q

Qualifications of members, S1-2, H1-1

Questions

debate of, See **Debate**

divide a question, motions to, 5-8, 5-9

order, decision and appeal, 1-4

postponed indefinitely, 5-2

previous, See **Previous question**

privilege, questions of

enumeration and precedence, 1-7

motions for, 5-2

speaking limitations, **S1-5, H1-3, H1-4**

Quorum

absence, 2-7, 5-7

call of the house, order for, 2-7, 2-8

majority requirement, 2-5

required, 1-1

R

Radio personnel. See Reporters. generally

- Readings required for bills and amendments, 6-23, 6-29**
- Reapportionment plan recommendations, resolutions for, 6-1**
- Recall of bills, 5-4**
- Recess, See also Adjournment**
 - convening in another place prohibited, 2-4
 - duration, 2-4
 - lobbying prohibited, **H2-1**
 - motions for, 4-1, 5-2, 5-4, 5-8
- Recodification bills, 6-2, 6-3, 6-6**
- Recognition of members to speak, 1-5**
- Reconsideration of bills, 5-2, 5-4, 5-5, 6-8, 6-30, 6-32, S4-1, S5-1, H1-5**
 - governor, by, 6-30, 6-32
- Reference bills, 6-20, 7-10**
- Referendum measures, 6-30**
- Refer or commit, motions to, 5-2, H3-4, See also Committees, generally, referral of bills to committee**
- Referral of bills to committees, See Committees, generally**
- Rejection of bills, 5-2, 6-8, 6-35**
 - amendments, 6-18, 6-23
- Repeal**
 - laws, 6-2
 - rules, 8-5
- Report and recommendation of bills from committee, See Committees, generally, referral of bills to committee**
- Reporters**
 - floor, admission to, **S1-7, H1-6**
 - hearings and meetings, not to be excluded from, 7-11
 - placement, 1-3
 - television, photographs, or recording allowed when, 7-11, **S1-7, H1-6**
- Report on journal, See Journal**
- Reproduction of bills, See Printing of bills**
- Requests for bills, See Drafting of bills**
- Rereferral of bills, 6-13**

Resolutions

- appointments by governor to express confirmation, 6-7
- consent calendar, See **Consent calendar**
- copies, cost, 8-8
- deadlines, 6-7, 6-34
- defined, 6-1
- drafting requests, 6-7
- governor's signature not required, 6-1, 6-30
- headings, 6-1
- introduction, 6-6, 6-7
- joint
 - administrative rules—for adoption, amendment, or repeal, 6-1, 6-7, 6-34
 - adoption, 6-1
 - deadlines, 6-7, 6-34
 - definition, 6-1
 - effective dates, 6-5
 - employees' compensation prescribed by, 3-1, 6-1
 - interim studies, 6-1, 6-7, 6-34
 - revenue estimation, for, 6-34, 7-6
 - review by legislative council, 6-6
 - secretary of state, delivery to, 3-5, 6-1
 - sponsors, See **Sponsors, bill**
 - subject, 3-1, 6-1
 - use, 6-1
 - voting on, 9-10
- numbering, 6-6
- postponement, effect, 5-2
- reconsideration, **S5-1**
- request deadlines, 6-7
- revenue estimation, joint resolutions for, 6-34, 7-6
- rules, amendments, 8-7
- secretary of state, delivery to, 3-5, 6-1
- simple—definition, use, and transmittal, 6-1
- subject, 3-1, 6-1
- transmittal, 3-5, 6-1, 6-34
- use, 6-1

Revenue bills

- amendments and transmittal, 6-34
- committee revenue bills, 6-7
- consent calendar, exclusion, 10-1
- deadlines, 6-7, 6-34
- defined, 6-34
- drafting requests, deadlines, 6-7
- fiscal notes, 6-36, 6-37
- introduction, 6-6, 6-7
- transmittal, 6-34

Revenue estimation

- joint committee, 7-6
- joint resolutions, 6-34, 7-6

Review of bills prior to introduction, 6-6**Roll call, 1-1, 4-1, 8-3****Roll call vote, See Voting****Rules**

- adoption, 6-1, **S8-1, H4-1**
- amendments, 6-1, 8-5, 8-7, **S8-1, H4-1**
- codification, 8-7
- committee of the whole, 6-26
- mason's manual of legislative procedure, use, 8-6, **S8-2, H4-2**
- new rules, 8-5
- publication and distribution, 8-7
- repeal, 8-5
- suspension, 5-8, 8-5, **S8-1, H4-1**
- transmittal to other house, 8-5

Rules, Committees on

- adoption of rules, **S8-1, H4-1**
- aides, additional—approval, 3-11
- amendments to rules, 8-5, **S8-1, H4-1**
- composition, **H3-2**
- enumeration, **S7-2, H3-1**
- floor, admission to—exceptions made by, **S1-7**
- joint meetings, voting procedure, 7-9
- minutes, copies to legislative council, 8-7
- reports by, 7-5
 - copies to legislative council, 8-7
 - transmittal to other house, 8-5
- similar bills, introduction or reception following rejection — approval, 6-8

S**Salaries. See Compensation****Salmon-colored bills, 6-20****Seating of members, 7-1****Second reading of bills, See also Committee of the Whole**

- adverse committee report consideration, **H3-4**
- amendments by committee of the whole, 6-20, 6-23
- calendar, 6-22, 7-10, **H3-4**
- color of bills, 6-19

Second reading of bills (Continued)

- committee reports, See **Committees, generally**,
- referral of bills to committee
- conference committee reports, 7-10, **S7-4**
- consent calendar bills, addition, 10-1
- deadline, 6-22
- debate of bills, 6-26
- "do pass" or "do not pass" bills, **H1-5, H3-4**
- failure to pass, **H1-5**
- favorable report, 6-20
- fiscal note requests, 6-36
- form of bill, 6-19
- intent, statements of, See **Statements of intent**
- motions
 - allowable, 6-26
 - debate of, **S5-1**
 - reconsider, motion in order when, **H1-5**
 - segregate a bill, to, 6-24
- order of business, 4-1
- postpone indefinitely, motion to, **H1-5**
- printing deadline, 6-19
- procedure, 6-23
- reading by title summary, 6-23, 6-29
- reconsider, motion in order when, **H1-5**
- rejection by committee of the whole, 6-25, **H1-5**
- required, 6-29
- segregation of bill, bill to remain on second reading, 6-24
- time for, 6-22, 6-29
- twenty-four hour rule, 6-22
- voice vote, **S1-6**
- vote, 9-10, **S1-6**

Secretaries

- appointment, 3-3, 3-4, 7-4
- committee, 3-3, 3-6
- majority and minority leaders, to, 3-4, 3-6
- presiding officers, to, 3-4, 3-6

Secretary of State

- bills and bill books, delivery to, 3-5
- chapter numbers, assignment, 6-21
- enrolled bills, originals filed with, 6-21
- journal, delivery to, 3-5
- resolutions, transmittal to, 3-5, 6-1

Secretary of the Senate

- aides registered with, 3-11
- bills
 - amendments, 6-23

Secretary of the Senate (Continued)

- clerical corrections, notification and objection, 3-7
- custodian, 3-5
- delivery to secretary of state, 3-5
- first reading, 6-10
- introduction by presentation to, 6-6
- public posting of introduced bills, 6-10
- rejected amendments, procedures, 6-23
- second reading
 - amendments, delivery to, 6-23
 - recording, 6-22
- supervision, 3-5
- transmittal, receipt for, 6-33
- committee minutes, duties, 3-5, 7-4
- conference committees
 - minutes, duties, 3-5
 - reports, filing, 7-10, **S7-4**
- debate, recording of excepted words, 1-6
- documents, custodian, 3-5
- duties generally, 3-5
- employees responsible to, 3-6
- journal, supervision and delivery to secretary of state, 3-5
- pairing votes, agreements filed with, 9-9
- records, custodian, 3-5
- rejected amendments, procedures, 6-23
- resolutions
 - delivery to secretary of state, 3-5
 - supervision, 3-5
 - transmittal to secretary of state, 6-1
- responsible to whom, 3-5
- rules, amendments to—duty, 8-7
- rules committee minutes and reports, duty, 8-7
- secretary of state, transmittals to, 3-5, 6-1

Segregate a bill, motion to, 6-24**Select committees, See Committees, generally****Sergeants-at-Arms**

- aides' identification, enforcement, 3-11
- arrest of members, 2-9
- assistants, 3-9
- duties generally, 3-8
- employees responsible to, 3-9
- process, service, 3-8
- responsible to whom, 3-8
- supplies, distribution and custody, 3-8

Service of process, 3-8

Sessions

- call to order, 1-1, 1-6
- convening hour, 2-1
- legislative day, what constitutes, 2-11
- lobbying, See **Lobbying**
- mason's manual of legislative procedure, use, 8-6,
S8-2, H4-2
- order of business, See **Order of business**
- place of convening, 2-4
- press not to be excluded, 7-11
- public, to be, 2-3, 7-11
- suspension during call of the house, 2-10
- television, photographs, and recording allowed when,
7-11, **S1-7, H1-6**

Seven-day rule, committee must report out referred bills,
7-2

Signing of bills

- "did sign", 6-21
- governor's action, 6-30
- legislative council, signed copies filed with, 6-21
- sponsors, 6-6

Similar bills, introduction prohibited when, 6-8

Simple resolutions, See **Resolutions**, generally

Single subject expressed in bill, 6-3, 6-4, 6-16

Speaker of the House, See also **Presiding officers**

- absence, **H1-2**
- committees
 - appointment, **H3-2**
 - ex officio member, **H3-3**
- election, **H1-1**
- journals, authentication, 8-4
- presiding officer, as, 1-1, **H1-1**
- rules committee, appointments to and member of,
H3-2

Speaker Pro Tempore of the House, **H1-2**

Speaking limitations on members, See also **Debate**

- appeal, 1-4
- committee of the whole, 6-26
- house, **H1-3, H1-4**
- recognition, 1-5
- senate, **S1-5**

Special orders of the day, 4-1, 10-1

Sponsors, bill

- additional, on preintroduced bills, 6-6

Sponsors, bill (Continued)

- agencies, 6-6
- committees as, 3-7, 6-6
- consent form for signatures, 6-6
- corrections on bills, notification and objection, 3-7
- cosponsors, 6-6
- departments, 6-6
- drafting requests, required for, 6-2
- enrolled bill, examination, 6-21
- fiscal notes
 - requests, 6-36
 - sponsor's fiscal note, 6-37
- joint sponsors, 6-6
- preintroduced bills, 6-6

Sponsor's fiscal note, 6-37**Standing committees, See Committees, generally****State Administration, Committees on, S7-2, H3-1****State archives, See Historical Society****State Budget Director. fiscal note preparation, 6-36****Statements of intent**

- amendments, 11-4, 11-5
- authoring, responsibility, 11-3
- color of paper used for, 11-3
- concurrence, 11-5
- conference committee on, 11-5
- defined, 11-1
- deletion, 11-5
- limitations, 11-2
- modifications, 11-4, 11-5
- procedure, 11-3, 11-5
- required when, 11-3

Status sheets. cost of copies, 8-8**Statutes. See Laws****Stenographers, chief, 3-3****Subcommittees, See Committees, generally****Subject matter of bill**

- limited, 6-3, 6-4, 6-16
- similar bills, prohibited when, 6-8

Subpoenas. 1-8**Substitute bills, 6-16, 6-17****Supplies, 3-8, 3-15**

Supreme Court, Clerk of the—signed copies of enrolled bills filed with, 6-21

Suspension of rules, 5-8, 8-5, **S8-1**, **H4-1**

T

Tabling of motions, 5-2, 5-5, 5-8

Take from the table, 5-5, 5-8

Taxation, Committees on, 7-6, **S7-2**, **H3-1**
joint committee, 7-6

Tax bills, See **Revenue bills**

Telephones, usage, 3-15

Television coverage allowed when, 7-11, **S1-7**, **H1-6**

Third reading of bills

amendments, 6-18, 6-29

calendar, 6-20

color of bills, 6-20

conference committee reports, 7-10, **S7-4**

consent calendar bills, 10-1

order of business, 4-1

intent, statements of, See **Statements of intent**

order of business, 4-1

question, statement of, 9-7

reconsider, motion to, **S5-1**

transmittal following, 6-35

voting requirements, 6-18, 6-28, 9-4, 9-7, 9-10

Title of bills

amendment of statute by title only prohibited, 6-14

cover of bills, written on, 6-21

introduced bills, public posting by, 6-10

journal index, entry, 8-2

MCA sections affected, stated in, 6-2

reading by, 6-23, 6-29

subject matter expressed in, 6-3

substitute bills, 6-16, 6-17

Transmittal of appropriation bills and bills

implementing provisions of general appropriation bills

after 72nd day, 6-34

deadline, 6-34

senate amendments, after 83rd day, 6-34

Transmittal of bills generally

after 45th day, 6-34

Transmittal of bills generally (Continued)

- amendments, after 70th day, 6-34
- governor's recommendations, 6-32
- consent calendar bills, 10-1
- deadline, 6-34
- enrolled bills, 6-21
- general procedure, 6-33
- governor's recommendations for amendments, 6-32
- late, 6-34
- prohibited when, 6-8
- receipt for, 6-33
- rejected bills, 6-35
- required when, 6-32, 6-34, 6-35
- second house, by, 6-35
- third reading, following, 6-35

Transmittal of resolutions

- administrative rules, relating to, 6-34
- interim studies, for, 6-34
- responsibility for, 6-1
- revenue estimation, joint resolutions for
 - amendments, 83rd day deadline, 6-34
 - 67th day deadline, 6-34
- secretary of state, to, 3-5, 6-1

Transmittal of revenue bills originating in House

- after 65th day, 6-34
- deadline, 6-34
- senate amendments, after 83rd day, 6-34

Transmittal of revenue bills originating in Senate

- after 58th day, 6-34
- deadline, 6-34
- house amendments, after 83rd day, 6-34

Transmittal of rules or rule amendments, 8-5**Transportation, Committees on Highways and, S7-2, H3-1****Twelve orders of business, 4-1, See Order of business****Twenty-four hour rule, second reading consideration, 6-22** **$\frac{2}{3}$ vote, See Voting****Typists, 3-6****U****Unanimous vote, See Voting**

Unfinished business, 4-1

United States constitutional amendments, 6-1, 6-30, 8-2

V

Veto by governor, 6-3, 6-8, 6-30, 6-31

Visitors, 1-2, S1-7, H1-6

Voting

bills, requirements, 6-28, 6-34

change of vote, 9-6, 9-7

committees, 7-9, S7-5

in absentia, authorization, S7-5

long-range building, senate select committee members, S7-6

reports by, not allowed when vote being taken, 7-5
communications to legislature, on reading when objection made, 1-9

conference committees, 7-9

reports on bills requiring majority vote, 7-10

conflict of interest, disclosure, 9-2

consent calendar bills, 10-1

constitutional amendments, Montana, 6-28, 8-2, 9-3

electronic voting system, procedure, 9-6, 9-7

excuse, 9-1, 9-8, S1-6

explanation prohibited when, 9-6

in absentia, authorization by committee, S7-5

joint committees, 7-9

journal entry, 6-28, 8-1, 8-2, 9-10, 10-1

majority

amendments to bills requiring more than,
procedure, 6-18

appeal on question of order, member speaking
more than once, 1-4

arrest of members, 2-9

bills becoming laws, 6-28

call of the house, 2-7

committees

bill introduction, $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of committee, 6-9
in absentia votes, authorization, S7-5

conference committees

reports on bills requiring majority vote, 7-10
votes, 7-9

constitutional amendments, Montana, 6-28

"do pass" recommendation, adoption, 6-19

fiscal note requests, 6-36

Voting (Continued)

- indefinite postponement, 5-2
- order of business, pass or revert to new, 4-1
- pairing of votes, 9-8
- required when, 4-1, 6-28, 7-10, 9-4
- roll call vote, 5-2
- senate rules, adoption or amendment, **S8-1**
- pairing of votes, 9-8
 - procedure, 9-9
 - prohibited when, **S7-5**
- president or president pro tempore of the senate, **S1-3**
- presiding officers, 1-10, 9-7, **S1-3**, **S1-4**
- procedure, 9-6, 9-7, 9-9, 9-10
- public record, 9-10
- reconsider, motions to, 5-4
- recording and requirements, 6-28, 9-7, 9-10, **S1-6**
- required of member, 9-1
- roll call
 - adverse committee reports, 9-10
 - committee of the whole motions, 9-10
 - consent calendar bills, 10-1
 - constitutional amendments, 9-3
 - indefinite postponement, 5-2
 - journal entry, 8-2, 9-10
 - procedure, 9-6
 - question, postponement, 5-2
 - recording, 8-2, 9-10
 - requests for, 9-5, 9-10
 - second reading, 9-10
 - third reading, 6-28, 9-10
 - two members, requested by, 9-5, 9-10
 - veto, to override, 6-31
- rules committees, 7-9
- standing vote, **S1-6**
- third reading, procedure, 6-18, 6-28, 9-4, 9-7, 9-10
- $\frac{2}{3}$ vote
 - amendments for appropriation and revenue bills,
 - transmittal after deadline, 6-34
 - appropriation bills and bills implementing provisions of general appropriation bills,
 - transmittal after deadline, 6-34
 - bills, action upon—determination, 6-34
 - call of the house, removal, 2-10
 - constitutional amendments, Montana, 6-28, 8-2, 9-3
 - house rules—amendment, adoption, or temporary suspension, **H4-1**

Voting (Continued)

- joint rules, suspension, 8-5
- motions to reconsider, 5-5
- pairing of votes, 9-8
- revenue bills, transmittal after deadline, 6-34
- senate rules, temporary suspension, **S8-1**
- statements of intent, to attach, 11-2
- subsidiary measures, 9-4
- transmittal after deadline, 6-34
- veto by governor, to override, 6-30, 6-31
- unanimous vote
 - consent calendar, placement on, 10-1
 - house, speaking more than once, **H1-4**
 - reconsider, withdrawal of motions to, 5-4
 - senate
 - speaking more than twice, **S1-5**
 - voice vote, procedure, **S1-6**
- voice vote when, 9-6, **S1-6**

W

Watchmen, 3-9

White paper

- cover of bills, 6-2, 6-21
- introduced bills, 6-2

Y

Yellow bills, 6-19, 11-3

**THE
CONSTITUTION
OF THE
STATE OF MONTANA
(Including 1986 Ammendments)**

PREAMBLE

We the people of Montana grateful to God for the quiet beauty of our state, the grandeur of our mountains, the vastness of our rolling plains, and desiring to improve the quality of life, equality of opportunity and to secure the blessings of liberty for this and future generations do ordain and establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I

COMPACT WITH THE UNITED STATES

All provisions of the enabling act of Congress (approved February 22, 1889, 25 Stat. 676), as amended and of Ordinance No. 1, appended to the Constitution of the state of Montana and approved February 22, 1889, including the agreement and declaration that all lands owned or held by any Indian or Indian tribes shall remain under the absolute jurisdiction and control of the congress of the United States, continue in full force and effect until revoked by the consent of the United States and the people of Montana.

ARTICLE II

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

Section 1. Popular sovereignty. All political power is vested in and derived from the people. All government of right originates with the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole.

Section 2. Self-government. The people have the exclusive right of governing themselves as a free, sovereign, and independent state. They may alter or abolish the constitution and form of government whenever they deem it necessary.

Section 3. Inalienable rights. All persons are born free and have certain inalienable rights. They include the right to a clean and healthful environment and the rights of pursuing life's basic necessities, enjoying and defending their lives and liberties, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and seeking their safety, health and happiness in all lawful ways. In enjoying these rights, all persons recognize corresponding responsibilities.

Section 4. Individual dignity. The dignity of the human being is inviolable. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws. Neither the state nor any person, firm, corporation, or institution shall discriminate against any person in the exercise of his civil or political rights on account of race, color, sex, culture, social origin or condition, or political or religious ideas.

Section 5. Freedom of religion. The state shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

Section 6. Freedom of assembly. The people shall have the right peaceably to assemble, petition for redress or peaceably protest governmental action.

Section 7. Freedom of speech, expression, and press. No law shall be passed impairing the freedom of speech or expression. Every person shall be free to speak or publish whatever he will on any subject, being responsible for all abuse of that liberty. In all suits and prosecutions for libel or slander the truth thereof may be given in evidence and the jury, under the direction of the court, shall determine the law and the facts.

Section 8. Right of participation. The public has the right to expect governmental agencies to afford such reasonable opportunity for citizen participation in the operation of the agencies prior to the final decision as may be provided by law.

Section 9. Right to know. No person shall be deprived of the right to examine documents or to observe the deliberations of all public bodies or agencies of state government and its subdivisions, except in cases in which the demand of individual privacy clearly exceeds the merit of public disclosure.

Section 10. Right of privacy. The right of individual privacy is essential to the well-being of a free society and shall not be infringed without the showing of a compelling state interest.

Section 11. Searches and seizures. The people shall be secure in their persons, papers, homes and effects from unreasonable searches and seizures. No warrant to search

any place, or seize any person or thing shall issue without describing the place to be searched or the person or thing to be seized, or without probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation reduced to writing.

Section 12. Right to bear arms. The right of any person to keep or bear arms in defense of his own home, person, and property, or in aid of the civil power when thereto legally summoned, shall not be called in question, but nothing herein contained shall be held to permit the carrying of concealed weapons.

Section 13. Right of suffrage. All elections shall be free and open, and no power, civil or military, shall at any time interfere to prevent the free exercise of the right of suffrage.

Section 14. Adult rights. A person 18 years of age or older is an adult for all purposes, except that the legislature or the people by initiative may establish the legal age for purchasing, consuming, or possessing alcoholic beverages.

Section 15. Rights of persons not adults. The rights of persons under 18 years of age shall include, but not be limited to, all the fundamental rights of this Article unless specifically precluded by laws which enhance the protection of such persons.

Section 16. The administration of justice. (1) Courts of justice shall be open to every person, and speedy remedy afforded for injury of person, property, or character. Right and justice shall be administered without sale, denial, or delay.

(2) No person shall be deprived of legal redress for injury incurred in employment for which another person may be liable except as to fellow employees and his immediate employer who hired him if such immediate employer provides coverage under the Workmen's Compensation Laws of this state.

(3) This section shall not be construed as a limitation upon the authority of the legislature to enact statutes establishing, limiting, modifying, or abolishing remedies, claims for relief, damages, or allocations of responsibility for damages in any civil proceeding; except that any express dollar limits on compensatory damages for actual economic loss for bodily injury must be approved by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of each house of the legislature.

Section 17. Due process of law. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.

Section 18. State subject to suit. The state, counties, cities, towns, and all other local governmental entities shall have no immunity from suit for injury to a person or property, except as may be specifically provided by law by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of each house of the legislature.

Section 19. Habeas corpus. The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall never be suspended.

Section 20. Initiation of proceedings. (1) Criminal offenses within the jurisdiction of any court inferior to the district court shall be prosecuted by complaint. All criminal actions in district court, except those on appeal, shall be prosecuted either by information, after examination and commitment by a magistrate or after leave granted by the court, or by indictment without such examination, commitment or leave.

(2) A grand jury shall consist of eleven persons, of whom eight must concur to find an indictment. A grand jury shall be drawn and summoned only at the discretion and order of the district judge.

Section 21. Bail. All persons shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, except for capital offenses, when the proof is evident or the presumption great.

Section 22. Excessive sanctions. Excessive bail shall not be required, or excessive fines imposed, or cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Section 23. Detention. No person shall be imprisoned for the purpose of securing his testimony in any criminal proceeding longer than may be necessary in order to take his deposition. If he can give security for his appearance at the time of trial, he shall be discharged upon giving the same; if he cannot give security, his deposition shall be taken in the manner provided by law, and in the presence of the accused and his counsel, or without their presence, if they shall fail to attend the examination after reasonable notice of the time and place thereof.

Section 24. Rights of the accused. In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall have the right to appear and

defend in person and by counsel; to demand the nature and cause of the accusation; to meet the witnesses against him face to face; to have process to compel the attendance of witnesses in his behalf, and a speedy public trial by an impartial jury of the county or district in which the offense is alleged to have been committed, subject to the right of the state to have a change of venue for any of the causes for which the defendant may obtain the same.

Section 25. Self-incrimination and double jeopardy. No person shall be compelled to testify against himself in a criminal proceeding. No person shall be again put in jeopardy for the same offense previously tried in any jurisdiction.

Section 26. Trial by jury. The right of trial by jury is secured to all and shall remain inviolate. But upon default of appearance or by consent of the parties expressed in such manner as the law may provide, all cases may be tried without a jury or before fewer than the number of jurors provided by law. In all civil actions, two-thirds of the jury may render a verdict, and a verdict so rendered shall have the same force and effect as if all had concurred therein. In all criminal actions, the verdict shall be unanimous.

Section 27. Imprisonment for debt. No person shall be imprisoned for debt except in the manner provided by law, upon refusal to deliver up his estate for the benefit of his creditors, or in cases of tort, where there is strong presumption of fraud.

Section 28. Rights of the convicted. Laws for the punishment of crime shall be founded on the principles of prevention and reformation. Full rights are restored by termination of state supervision for any offense against the state.

Section 29. Eminent domain. Private property shall not be taken or damaged for public use without just compensation to the full extent of the loss having been first made to or paid into court for the owner. In the event of litigation, just compensation shall include necessary expenses of litigation to be awarded by the court when the private property owner prevails.

Section 30. Treason and descent of estates. Treason against the state shall consist only in levying war

against it, or in adhering to its enemies, giving them aid and comfort; no person shall be convicted of treason except on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on his confession in open court; no person shall be attainted of treason or felony by the legislature; no conviction shall cause the loss of property to the relatives or heirs of the convicted. The estates of suicides shall descend or vest as in cases of natural death.

Section 31. Ex post facto, obligation of contracts, and irrevocable privileges. No ex post facto law nor any law impairing the obligation of contracts, or making any irrevocable grant of special privileges, franchises, or immunities, shall be passed by the legislature.

Section 32. Civilian control of the military. The military shall always be in strict subordination to the civil power; no soldier shall in time of peace be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, except in the manner provided by law.

Section 33. Importation of armed persons. No armed person or persons or armed body of men shall be brought into this state for the preservation of the peace, or the suppression of domestic violence, except upon the application of the legislature, or of the governor when the legislature cannot be convened.

Section 34. Unenumerated rights. The enumeration in this constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny, impair, or disparage others retained by the people.

Section 35. Servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans. The people declare that Montana servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans may be given special considerations determined by the legislature.

ARTICLE III

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Separation of powers. The power of the government of this state is divided into three distinct branches—legislative, executive, and judicial. No person or persons charged with the exercise of power properly belonging to one branch shall exercise any power properly belong-

ing to either of the others, except as in this constitution expressly directed or permitted.

Section 2. Continuity of government. The seat of government shall be in Helena, except during periods of emergency resulting from disasters or enemy attack. The legislature may enact laws to insure the continuity of government during a period of emergency without regard for other provisions of the constitution. They shall be effective only during the period of emergency that affects a particular office or governmental operation.

Section 3. Oath of office. Members of the legislature and all executive, ministerial and judicial officers, shall take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation, before they enter upon the duties of their offices: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect and defend the constitution of the United States, and the constitution of the state of Montana, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity (so help me God)." No other oath, declaration, or test shall be required as a qualification for any office or public trust.

Section 4. Initiative. (1) The people may enact laws by initiative on all matters except appropriations of money and local or special laws.

(2) Initiative petitions must contain the full text of the proposed measure, shall be signed by at least five percent of the qualified electors in each of at least one-third of the legislative representative districts and the total number of signers must be at least five percent of the total qualified electors of the state. Petitions shall be filed with the secretary of state at least three months prior to the election at which the measure will be voted upon.

(3) The sufficiency of the initiative petition shall not be questioned after the election is held.

Section 5. Referendum. (1) The people may approve or reject by referendum any act of the legislature except an appropriation of money. A referendum shall be held either upon order by the legislature or upon petition signed by at least five percent of the qualified electors in each of at least one-third of the legislative representative districts. The total number of signers must be at least five percent of the qualified electors of the state. A referendum petition shall be filed with the secretary of state no later

than six months after adjournment of the legislature which passed the act.

(2) An act referred to the people is in effect until suspended by petitions signed by at least 15 percent of the qualified electors in a majority of the legislative representative districts. If so suspended the act shall become operative only after it is approved at an election, the result of which has been determined and declared as provided by law.

Section 6. Elections. The people shall vote on initiative and referendum measures at the general election unless the legislature orders a special election.

Section 7. Number of electors. The number of qualified electors required in each legislative representative district and in the state shall be determined by the number of votes cast for the office of governor in the preceding general election.

Section 8. Prohibition. The provisions of this Article do not apply to CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION, Article XIV.

Section 9. Gambling. All forms of gambling, lotteries, and gift enterprises are prohibited unless authorized by acts of the legislature or by the people through initiative or referendum.

ARTICLE IV

SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Ballot. All elections by the people shall be by secret ballot.

Section 2. Qualified elector. Any citizen of the United States 18 years of age or older who meets the registration and residence requirements provided by law is a qualified elector unless he is serving a sentence for a felony in a penal institution or is of unsound mind, as determined by a court.

Section 3. Elections. The legislature shall provide by law the requirements for residence, registration, absentee voting, and administration of elections. It may provide for a

system of poll booth registration, and shall insure the purity of elections and guard against abuses of the electoral process.

Section 4. Eligibility for public office. Any qualified elector is eligible to any public office, except as otherwise provided in this constitution. The legislature may provide additional qualifications but no person convicted of a felony shall be eligible to hold office until his final discharge from state supervision.

Section 5. Result of elections. In all elections held by the people, the person or persons receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected.

Section 6. Privilege from arrest. A qualified elector is privileged from arrest at polling places and in going to and returning therefrom, unless apprehended in the commission of a felony or a breach of the peace.

ARTICLE V

THE LEGISLATURE

Section 1. Power and structure. The legislative power is vested in a legislature consisting of a senate and a house of representatives. The people reserve to themselves the powers of initiative and referendum.

Section 2. Size. The size of the legislature shall be provided by law, but the senate shall not have more than 50 or fewer than 40 members and the house shall not have more than 100 or fewer than 80 members.

Section 3. Election and terms. A member of the house of representatives shall be elected for a term of two years and a member of the senate for a term of four years each to begin on a date provided by law. One-half of the senators shall be elected every two years.

Section 4. Qualifications. A candidate for the legislature shall be a resident of the state for at least one year next preceding the general election. For six months next preceding the general election, he shall be a resident of the county if it contains one or more districts or of the district if it contains all or parts of more than one county.

Section 5. Compensation. Each member of the legislature shall receive compensation for his services and allowances provided by law. No legislature may fix its own compensation.

Section 6. Sessions. The legislature shall meet each odd-numbered year in regular session of not more than 90 legislative days. Any legislature may increase the limit on the length of any subsequent session. The legislature may be convened in special sessions by the governor or at the written request of a majority of the members.

Section 7. Vacancies. A vacancy in the legislature shall be filled by special election for the unexpired term unless otherwise provided by law.

Section 8. Immunity. A member of the legislature is privileged from arrest during attendance at sessions of the legislature and in going to and returning therefrom, unless apprehended in the commission of a felony or a breach of the peace. He shall not be questioned in any other place for any speech or debate in the legislature.

Section 9. Disqualification. No member of the legislature shall, during the term for which he shall have been elected, be appointed to any civil office under the state; and no member of congress, or other person holding an office (except notary public, or the militia) under the United States or this state, shall be a member of the legislature during his continuance in office.

Section 10. Organization and procedure. (1) Each house shall judge the election and qualifications of its members. It may by law vest in the courts the power to try and determine contested elections. Each house shall choose its officers from among its members, keep a journal, and make rules for its proceedings. Each house may expel or punish a member for good cause shown with the concurrence of two-thirds of all its members.

(2) A majority of each house constitutes a quorum. A smaller number may adjourn from day to day and compel attendance of absent members.

(3) The sessions of the legislature and of the committee of the whole, all committee meetings, and all hearings shall be open to the public.

(4) The legislature may establish a legislative council and other interim committees. The legislature shall establish a

legislative post-audit committee which shall supervise post-auditing duties provided by law.

(5) Neither house shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn or recess for more than three days or to any place other than that in which the two houses are sitting.

Section 11. Bills. (1) A law shall be passed by bill which shall not be so altered or amended on its passage through the legislature as to change its original purpose. No bill shall become law except by a vote of the majority of all members present and voting.

(2) Every vote of each member of the legislature on each substantive question in the legislature, in any committee, or in committee of the whole shall be recorded and made public. On final passage, the vote shall be taken by ayes and noes and the names entered on the journal.

(3) Each bill, except general appropriation bills and bills for the codification and general revision of the laws, shall contain only one subject, clearly expressed in its title. If any subject is embraced in any act and is not expressed in the title, only so much of the act not so expressed is void.

(4) A general appropriation bill shall contain only appropriations for the ordinary expenses of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, for interest on the public debt, and for public schools. Every other appropriation shall be made by a separate bill, containing but one subject.

(5) No appropriation shall be made for religious, charitable, industrial, educational, or benevolent purposes to any private individual, private association, or private corporation not under control of the state.

(6) A law may be challenged on the ground of noncompliance with this section only within two years after its effective date.

Section 12. Local and special legislation. The legislature shall not pass a special or local act when a general act is, or can be made, applicable.

Section 13. Impeachment. (1) The governor, executive officers, heads of state departments, judicial officers, and such other officers as may be provided by law are subject to impeachment, and upon conviction shall be removed from office. Other proceedings for removal from public office for cause may be provided by law.

(2) The legislature shall provide for the manner, procedure, and causes for impeachment and may select the senate as tribunal.

(3) Impeachment shall be brought only by a two-thirds vote of the house. The tribunal hearing the charges shall convict only by a vote of two-thirds or more of its members.

(4) Conviction shall extend only to removal from office, but the party, whether convicted or acquitted, shall also be liable to prosecution according to law.

Section 14. Districting and apportionment.

(1) The state shall be divided into as many districts as there are members of the house, and each district shall elect one representative. Each senate district shall be composed of two adjoining house districts, and shall elect one senator. Each district shall consist of compact and contiguous territory. All districts shall be as nearly equal in population as is practicable.

(2) In the legislative session following ratification of this constitution and thereafter in each session preceding each federal population census, a commission of five citizens, none of whom may be public officials, shall be selected to prepare a plan for redistricting and reapportioning the state into legislative districts and a plan for redistricting the state into congressional districts. The majority and minority leaders of each house shall each designate one commissioner. Within 20 days after their designation, the four commissioners shall select the fifth member, who shall serve as chairman of the commission. If the four members fail to select the fifth member within the time prescribed, a majority of the supreme court shall select him.

(3) Within 90 days after the official final decennial census figures are available, the commission shall file its final plan for congressional districts with the secretary of state and it shall become law.

(4) The commission shall submit its plan for legislative districts to the legislature at the first regular session after its appointment or after the census figures are available. Within 30 days after submission, the legislature shall return the plan to the commission with its recommendations. Within 30 days thereafter, the commission shall file its final plan for legislative districts with the secretary of state and it shall become law.

(5) Upon filing both plans, the commission is then dissolved.

ARTICLE VI

THE EXECUTIVE

Section 1. Officers. (1) The executive branch includes a governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state,

attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, and auditor.

(2) Each holds office for a term of four years which begins on the first Monday of January next succeeding election, and until a successor is elected and qualified.

(3) Each shall reside at the seat of government, there keep the public records of his office, and perform such other duties as are provided in this constitution and by law.

Section 2. Election. (1) The governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, and auditor shall be elected by the qualified electors at a general election provided by law.

(2) Each candidate for governor shall file jointly with a candidate for lieutenant governor in primary elections, or so otherwise comply with nomination procedures provided by law that the offices of governor and lieutenant governor are voted upon together in primary and general elections.

Section 3. Qualifications. (1) No person shall be eligible to the office of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, or auditor unless he is 25 years of age or older at the time of his election. In addition, each shall be a citizen of the United States who has resided within the state two years next preceding his election.

(2) Any person with the foregoing qualifications is eligible to the office of attorney general if an attorney in good standing admitted to practice law in Montana who has engaged in the active practice thereof for at least five years before election.

(3) The superintendent of public instruction shall have such educational qualifications as are provided by law.

Section 4. Duties. (1) The executive power is vested in the governor who shall see that the laws are faithfully executed. He shall have such other duties as are provided in this constitution and by law.

(2) The lieutenant governor shall perform the duties provided by law and those delegated to him by the governor. No power specifically vested in the governor by this constitution may be delegated to the lieutenant governor.

(3) The secretary of state shall maintain official records of the executive branch and of the acts of the legislature, as provided by law. He shall keep the great seal of the state of Montana and perform any other duties provided by law.

(4) The attorney general is the legal officer of the state and shall have the duties and powers provided by law.

(5) The superintendent of public instruction and the auditor shall have such duties as are provided by law.

Section 5. Compensation. (1) Officers of the executive branch shall receive salaries provided by law.

(2) During his term, no elected officer of the executive branch may hold another public office or receive compensation for services from any other governmental agency. He may be a candidate for any public office during his term.

Section 6. Vacancy in office. (1) If the office of lieutenant governor becomes vacant by his succession to the office of governor, or by his death, resignation, or disability as determined by law, the governor shall appoint a qualified person to serve in that office for the remainder of the term. If both the elected governor and the elected lieutenant governor become unable to serve in the office of governor, succession to the respective offices shall be as provided by law for the period until the next general election. Then, a governor and lieutenant governor shall be elected to fill the remainder of the original term.

(2) If the office of secretary of state, attorney general, auditor, or superintendent of public instruction becomes vacant by death, resignation, or disability as determined by law, the governor shall appoint a qualified person to serve in that office until the next general election and until a successor is elected and qualified. The person elected to fill a vacancy shall hold the office until the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was elected.

Section 7. 20 departments. All executive and administrative offices, boards, bureaus, commissions, agencies and instrumentalities of the executive branch (except for the office of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, and auditor) and their respective functions, powers, and duties, shall be allocated by law among not more than 20 principal departments so as to provide an orderly arrangement in the administrative organization of state government. Temporary commissions may be established by law and need not be allocated within a department.

Section 8. Appointing power. (1) The departments provided for in section 7 shall be under the supervision of the governor. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution or by law, each department shall be headed by a single executive appointed by the governor subject to confirmation

by the senate to hold office until the end of the governor's term unless sooner removed by the governor.

(2) The governor shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the senate, all officers provided for in this constitution or by law whose appointment or election is not otherwise provided for. They shall hold office until the end of the governor's term unless sooner removed by the governor.

(3) If a vacancy occurs in any such office when the legislature is not in session, the governor shall appoint a qualified person to discharge the duties thereof until the office is filled by appointment and confirmation.

(4) A person not confirmed by the senate for an office shall not, except at its request, be nominated again for that office at the same session, or be appointed to that office when the legislature is not in session.

Section 9. Budget and messages. The governor shall at the beginning of each legislative session, and may at other times, give the legislature information and recommend measures he considers necessary. The governor shall submit to the legislature at a time fixed by law, a budget for the ensuing fiscal period setting forth in detail for all operating funds the proposed expenditures and estimated revenue of the state.

Section 10. Veto power. (1) Each bill passed by the legislature, except bills proposing amendments to the Montana constitution, bills ratifying proposed amendments to the United States constitution, resolutions, and initiative and referendum measures, shall be submitted to the governor for his signature. If he does not sign or veto the bill within five days after its delivery to him if the legislature is in session or within 25 days if the legislature is adjourned, it shall become law. The governor shall return a vetoed bill to the legislature with a statement of his reasons therefor.

(2) The governor may return any bill to the legislature with his recommendation for amendment. If the legislature passes the bill in accordance with the governor's recommendation, it shall again return the bill to the governor for his reconsideration. The governor shall not return a bill for amendment a second time.

(3) If after receipt of a veto message, two-thirds of the members of each house present approve the bill, it shall become law.

(4) (a) If the legislature is not in session when the governor vetoes a bill approved by two-thirds of the members present, he shall return the bill with his reasons therefor to

the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall poll the members of the legislature by mail and shall send each member a copy of the governor's veto message. If two-thirds or more of the members of each house vote to override the veto, the bill shall become law.

(b) The legislature may reconvene as provided by law to reconsider any bill vetoed by the governor when the legislature is not in session.

(5) The governor may veto items in appropriation bills, and in such instances the procedure shall be the same as upon veto of an entire bill.

Section 11. Special session. Whenever the governor considers it in the public interest, he may convene the legislature.

Section 12. Pardons. The governor may grant reprieves, commutations and pardons, restore citizenship, and suspend and remit fines and forfeitures subject to procedures provided by law.

Section 13. Militia. (1) The governor is commander-in-chief of the militia forces of the state, except when they are in the actual service of the United States. He may call out any part or all of the forces to aid in the execution of the laws, suppress insurrection, repel invasion, or protect life and property in natural disasters.

(2) The militia forces shall consist of all able-bodied citizens of the state except those exempted by law.

Section 14. Succession. (1) If the governor-elect is disqualified or dies, the lieutenant governor-elect upon qualifying for the office shall become governor for the full term. If the governor-elect fails to assume office for any other reason, the lieutenant governor-elect upon qualifying as such shall serve as acting governor until the governor-elect is able to assume office, or until the office becomes vacant.

(2) The lieutenant governor shall serve as acting governor when so requested in writing by the governor. After the governor has been absent from the state for more than 45 consecutive days, the lieutenant governor shall serve as acting governor.

(3) He shall serve as acting governor when the governor is so disabled as to be unable to communicate to the lieutenant governor the fact of his inability to perform the duties of his office. The lieutenant governor shall continue to serve

as acting governor until the governor is able to resume the duties of his office.

(4) Whenever, at any other time, the lieutenant governor and attorney general transmit to the legislature their written declaration that the governor is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the legislature shall convene to determine whether he is able to do so.

(5) If the legislature, within 21 days after convening, determines by two-thirds vote of its members that the governor is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the lieutenant governor shall serve as acting governor. Thereafter, when the governor transmits to the legislature his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office within 15 days, unless the legislature determines otherwise by two-thirds vote of its members. If the legislature so determines, the lieutenant governor shall continue to serve as acting governor.

(6) If the office of governor becomes vacant by reason of death, resignation, or disqualification, the lieutenant governor shall become governor for the remainder of the term, except as provided in this constitution.

(7) Additional succession to fill vacancies shall be provided by law.

(8) When there is a vacancy in the office of governor, the successor shall be the governor. The acting governor shall have the powers and duties of the office of governor only for the period during which he serves.

Section 15. Information for governor. (1) The governor may require information in writing, under oath when required, from the officers of the executive branch upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices.

(2) He may require information in writing, under oath, from all officers and managers of state institutions.

(3) He may appoint a committee to investigate and report to him upon the condition of any executive office or state institution.

ARTICLE VII

THE JUDICIARY

Section 1. Judicial power. The judicial power of the state is vested in one supreme court, district courts, justice courts, and such other courts as may be provided by law.

Section 2. Supreme court jurisdiction. (1) The supreme court has appellate jurisdiction and may issue, hear, and determine writs appropriate thereto. It has original jurisdiction to issue, hear, and determine writs of habeas corpus and such other writs as may be provided by law.

(2) It has general supervisory control over all other courts.

(3) It may make rules governing appellate procedure, practice and procedure for all other courts, admission to the bar and the conduct of its members. Rules of procedure shall be subject to disapproval by the legislature in either of the two sessions following promulgation.

(4) Supreme court process shall extend to all parts of the state.

Section 3. Supreme court organization. (1) The supreme court consists of one chief justice and four justices, but the legislature may increase the number of justices from four to six. A majority shall join in and pronounce decisions, which must be in writing.

(2) A district judge shall be substituted for the chief justice or a justice in the event of disqualification or disability, and the opinion of the district judge sitting with the supreme court shall have the same effect as an opinion of a justice.

Section 4. District court jurisdiction. (1) The district court has original jurisdiction in all criminal cases amounting to felony and all civil matters and cases at law and in equity. It may issue all writs appropriate to its jurisdiction. It shall have the power of naturalization and such additional jurisdiction as may be delegated by the laws of the United States or the state of Montana. Its process shall extend to all parts of the state.

(2) The district court shall hear appeals from inferior courts as trials anew unless otherwise provided by law. The legislature may provide for direct review by the district court of decisions of administrative agencies.

(3) Other courts may have jurisdiction of criminal cases not amounting to felony and such jurisdiction concurrent with that of the district court as may be provided by law.

Section 5. Justices of the peace. (1) There shall be elected in each county at least one justice of the peace with qualifications, training, and monthly compensation provided by law. There shall be provided such facilities that they may perform their duties in dignified surroundings.

(2) Justice courts shall have such original jurisdiction as may be provided by law. They shall not have trial jurisdiction in any criminal case designated a felony except as examining courts.

(3) The legislature may provide for additional justices of the peace in each county.

Section 6. Judicial districts. (1) The legislature shall divide the state into judicial districts and provide for the number of judges in each district. Each district shall be formed of compact territory and be bounded by county lines.

(2) The legislature may change the number and boundaries of judicial districts and the number of judges in each district, but no change in boundaries or the number of districts or judges therein shall work a removal of any judge from office during the term for which he was elected or appointed.

(3) The chief justice may, upon request of the district judge, assign district judges and other judges for temporary service from one district to another, and from one county to another.

Section 7. Terms and pay. (1) All justices and judges shall be paid as provided by law, but salaries shall not be diminished during terms of office.

(2) Terms of office shall be eight years for supreme court justices, six years for district court judges, four years for justices of the peace, and as provided by law for other judges.

Section 8. Selection. (1) The governor shall nominate a replacement from nominees selected in the manner provided by law for any vacancy in the office of supreme court justice or district court judge. If the governor fails to nominate within thirty days after receipt of nominees, the chief justice or acting chief justice shall make the nomination. Each nomination shall be confirmed by the senate, but a nomination made while the senate is not in session shall be effective as an appointment until the end of the next session. If the nomination is not confirmed, the office shall be vacant and another selection and nomination shall be made.

(2) If, at the first election after senate confirmation, and at the election before each succeeding term of office, any candidate other than the incumbent justice or district judge files for election to that office, the name of the incumbent shall be placed on the ballot. If there is no election contest

for the office, the name of the incumbent shall nevertheless be placed on the general election ballot to allow voters of the state or district to approve or reject him. If an incumbent is rejected, another selection and nomination shall be made.

(3) If an incumbent does not run, there shall be an election for the office.

Section 9. Qualifications. (1) A citizen of the United States who has resided in the state two years immediately before taking office is eligible to the office of supreme court justice or district court judge if admitted to the practice of law in Montana for at least five years prior to the date of appointment or election. Qualifications and methods of selection of judges of other courts shall be provided by law.

(2) No supreme court justice or district court judge shall solicit or receive compensation in any form whatever on account of his office, except salary and actual necessary travel expense.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this constitution, no supreme court justice or district court judge shall practice law during his term of office, engage in any other employment for which salary or fee is paid, or hold office in a political party.

(4) Supreme court justices shall reside within the state. Every other judge shall reside during his term of office in the district, county, township, precinct, city or town in which he is elected or appointed.

Section 10. Forfeiture of judicial position. Any holder of a judicial position forfeits that position by either filing for an elective public office other than a judicial position or absenting himself from the state for more than 60 consecutive days.

Section 11. Removal and discipline. (1) The legislature shall create a judicial standards commission consisting of five persons and provide for the appointment thereto of two district judges, one attorney, and two citizens who are neither judges nor attorneys.

(2) The commission shall investigate complaints, and make rules implementing this section. It may subpoena witnesses and documents.

(3) Upon recommendation of the commission, the supreme court may:

(a) Retire any justice or judge for disability that seriously interferes with the performance of his duties and is or may become permanent; or

(b) Censure, suspend, or remove any justice or judge for willful misconduct in office, willful and persistent failure to perform his duties, violation of canons of judicial ethics adopted by the supreme court of the state of Montana, or habitual intemperance.

(4) The proceedings of the commission are confidential except as provided by statute.

ARTICLE VIII

REVENUE AND FINANCE

Section 1. Tax purposes. Taxes shall be levied by general laws for public purposes.

Section 2. Tax power inalienable. The power to tax shall never be surrendered, suspended, or contracted away.

Section 3. Property tax administration. The state shall appraise, assess, and equalize the valuation of all property which is to be taxed in the manner provided by law.

Section 4. Equal valuation. All taxing jurisdictions shall use the assessed valuation of property established by the state.

Section 5. Property tax exemptions. (1) The legislature may exempt from taxation:

(a) Property of the United States, the state, counties, cities, towns, school districts, municipal corporations, and public libraries, but any private interest in such property may be taxed separately.

(b) Institutions of purely public charity, hospitals and places of burial not used or held for private or corporate profit, places for actual religious worship, and property used exclusively for educational purposes.

(c) Any other classes of property.

(2) The legislature may authorize creation of special improvement districts for capital improvements and the maintenance thereof. It may authorize the assessment of charges for such improvements and maintenance against tax exempt property directly benefited thereby.

Section 6. Highway revenue non-diversion.

(1) Revenue from gross vehicle weight fees and excise and license taxes (except general sales and use taxes) on gasoline, fuel, and other energy sources used to propel vehicles on public highways shall be used as authorized by the legislature, after deduction of statutory refunds and adjustments, solely for:

(a) Payment of obligations incurred for construction, reconstruction, repair, operation, and maintenance of public highways, streets, roads, and bridges.

(b) Payment of county, city, and town obligations on streets, roads, and bridges.

(c) Enforcement of highway safety, driver education, tourist promotion, and administrative collection costs.

(2) Such revenue may be appropriated for other purposes by a three-fifths vote of the members of each house of the legislature.

Section 7. Tax appeals. The legislature shall provide independent appeal procedures for taxpayer grievances about appraisals, assessments, equalization, and taxes. The legislature shall include a review procedure at the local government unit level.

Section 8. State debt. No state debt shall be created unless authorized by a two-thirds vote of the members of each house of the legislature or a majority of the electors voting thereon. No state debt shall be created to cover deficits incurred because appropriations exceeded anticipated revenue.

Section 9. Balanced budget. Appropriations by the legislature shall not exceed anticipated revenue.

Section 10. Local government debt. The legislature shall by law limit debts of counties, cities, towns, and all other local governmental entities.

Section 11. Use of loan proceeds. All money borrowed by or on behalf of the state or any county, city, town, or other local governmental entity shall be used only for purposes specified in the authorizing law.

Section 12. Strict accountability. The legislature shall by law insure strict accountability of all revenue received and money spent by the state and counties, cities, towns, and all other local governmental entities.

Section 13. Investment of public funds. (1) The legislature shall provide for a unified investment program for public funds and provide rules therefor, including supervision of investment of surplus funds of all counties, cities, towns, and other local governmental entities. Each fund forming a part of the unified investment program shall be separately identified. Except for monies contributed to retirement funds, no public funds shall be invested in private corporate capital stock. The investment program shall be audited at least annually and a report thereof submitted to the governor and legislature.

(2) The public school fund and the permanent funds of the Montana university system and all other state institutions of learning shall be safely and conservatively invested in:

(a) Public securities of the state, its subdivisions, local government units, and districts within the state, or

(b) Bonds of the United States or other securities fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States, or

(c) Such other safe investments bearing a fixed rate of interest as may be provided by law.

Section 14. Prohibited payments. Except for interest on the public debt, no money shall be paid out of the treasury unless upon an appropriation made by law and a warrant drawn by the proper officer in pursuance thereof.

ARTICLE IX

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Section 1. Protection and improvement. (1) The state and each person shall maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment in Montana for present and future generations.

(2) The legislature shall provide for the administration and enforcement of this duty.

(3) The legislature shall provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources.

Section 2. Reclamation. (1) All lands disturbed by the taking of natural resources shall be reclaimed. The legis-

lature shall provide effective requirements and standards for the reclamation of lands disturbed.

(2) The legislature shall provide for a fund, to be known as the resource indemnity trust of the state of Montana, to be funded by such taxes on the extraction of natural resources as the legislature may from time to time impose for that purpose.

(3) The principal of the resource indemnity trust shall forever remain inviolate in an amount of one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000), guaranteed by the state against loss or diversion.

Section 3. Water rights. (1) All existing rights to the use of any waters for any useful or beneficial purpose are hereby recognized and confirmed.

(2) The use of all water that is now or may hereafter be appropriated for sale, rent, distribution, or other beneficial use, the right of way over the lands of others for all ditches, drains, flumes, canals, and aqueducts necessarily used in connection therewith, and the sites for reservoirs necessary for collecting and storing water shall be held to be a public use.

(3) All surface, underground, flood, and atmospheric waters within the boundaries of the state are the property of the state for the use of its people and are subject to appropriation for beneficial uses as provided by law.

(4) The legislature shall provide for the administration, control, and regulation of water rights and shall establish a system of centralized records, in addition to the present system of local records.

Section 4. Cultural resources. The legislature shall provide for the identification, acquisition, restoration, enhancement, preservation, and administration of scenic, historic, archeologic, scientific, cultural, and recreational areas, sites, records and objects, and for their use and enjoyment by the people.

Section 5. Severance tax on coal — trust fund. The legislature shall dedicate not less than one-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) of the coal severance tax to a trust fund, the interest and income from which may be appropriated. The principal of the trust shall forever remain inviolate unless appropriated by vote of three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the members of each house of the legislature. After December 31, 1979, at least fifty percent (50%) of the severance tax shall be dedicated to the trust fund.

ARTICLE X

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC LANDS

Section 1. Educational goals and duties. (1) It is the goal of the people to establish a system of education which will develop the full educational potential of each person. Equality of educational opportunity is guaranteed to each person of the state.

(2) The state recognizes the distinct and unique cultural heritage of the American Indians and is committed in its educational goals to the preservation of their cultural integrity.

(3) The legislature shall provide a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools. The legislature may provide such other educational institutions, public libraries, and educational programs as it deems desirable. It shall fund and distribute in an equitable manner to the school districts the state's share of the cost of the basic elementary and secondary school system.

Section 2. Public school fund. The public school fund of the state shall consist of: (1) Proceeds from the school lands which have been or may hereafter be granted by the United States,

(2) Lands granted in lieu thereof,

(3) Lands given or granted by any person or corporation under any law or grant of the United States,

(4) All other grants of land or money made from the United States for general educational purposes or without special purpose,

(5) All interests in estates that escheat to the state,

(6) All unclaimed shares and dividends of any corporation incorporated in the state,

(7) All other grants, gifts, devises or bequests made to the state for general educational purposes.

Section 3. Public school fund inviolate. The public school fund shall forever remain inviolate, guaranteed by the state against loss or diversion.

Section 4. Board of land commissioners. The governor, superintendent of public instruction, auditor, secretary of state, and attorney general constitute the board of land commissioners. It has the authority to direct, control, lease, exchange, and sell school lands and lands which have

been or may be granted for the support and benefit of the various state educational institutions, under such regulations and restrictions as may be provided by law.

Section 5. Public school fund revenue. (1) Ninety-five percent of all the interest received on the public school fund and ninety-five percent of all rent received from the leasing of school lands and all other income from the public school fund shall be equitably apportioned annually to public elementary and secondary school districts as provided by law.

(2) The remaining five percent of all interest received on the public school fund, and the remaining five percent of all rent received from the leasing of school lands and all other income from the public school fund shall annually be added to the public school fund and become and forever remain an inseparable and inviolable part thereof.

Section 6. Aid prohibited to sectarian schools. (1) The legislature, counties, cities, towns, school districts, and public corporations shall not make any direct or indirect appropriation or payment from any public fund or monies, or any grant of lands or other property for any sectarian purpose or to aid any church, school, academy, seminary, college, university, or other literary or scientific institution, controlled in whole or in part by any church, sect, or denomination.

(2) This section shall not apply to funds from federal sources provided to the state for the express purpose of distribution to non-public education.

Section 7. Nondiscrimination in education. No religious or partisan test or qualification shall be required of any teacher or student as a condition of admission into any public educational institution. Attendance shall not be required at any religious service. No sectarian tenets shall be advocated in any public educational institution of the state. No person shall be refused admission to any public educational institution on account of sex, race, creed, religion, political beliefs, or national origin.

Section 8. School district trustees. The supervision and control of schools in each school district shall be vested in a board of trustees to be elected as provided by law.

Section 9. Boards of education. (1) There is a state board of education composed of the board of regents of

higher education and the board of public education. It is responsible for long-range planning, and for coordinating and evaluating policies and programs for the state's educational systems. It shall submit unified budget requests. A tie vote at any meeting may be broken by the governor, who is an ex officio member of each component board.

(2) (a) The government and control of the Montana university system is vested in a board of regents of higher education which shall have full power, responsibility, and authority to supervise, coordinate, manage and control the Montana university system and shall supervise and coordinate other public educational institutions assigned by law.

(b) The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor, and confirmed by the senate, to overlapping terms, as provided by law. The governor and superintendent of public instruction are ex officio non-voting members of the board.

(c) The board shall appoint a commissioner of higher education and prescribe his term and duties.

(d) The funds and appropriations under the control of the board of regents are subject to the same audit provisions as are all other state funds.

(3) (a) There is a board of public education to exercise general supervision over the public school system and such other public educational institutions as may be assigned by law. Other duties of the board shall be provided by law.

(b) The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor, and confirmed by the senate, to overlapping terms as provided by law. The governor, commissioner of higher education and state superintendent of public instruction shall be ex officio non-voting members of the board.

Section 10. State university funds. The funds of the Montana university system and of all other state institutions of learning, from whatever source accruing, shall forever remain inviolate and sacred to the purpose for which they were dedicated. The various funds shall be respectively invested under such regulations as may be provided by law, and shall be guaranteed by the state against loss or diversion. The interest from such invested funds, together with the rent from leased lands or properties, shall be devoted to the maintenance and perpetuation of the respective institutions.

Section 11. Public land trust, disposition. (1) All lands of the state that have been or may be granted by congress, or acquired by gift or grant or devise from any person

or corporation, shall be public lands of the state. They shall be held in trust for the people, to be disposed of as hereafter provided, for the respective purposes for which they have been or may be granted, donated or devised.

(2) No such land or any estate or interest therein shall ever be disposed of except in pursuance of general laws providing for such disposition, or until the full market value of the estate or interest disposed of, to be ascertained in such manner as may be provided by law, has been paid or safely secured to the state.

(3) No land which the state holds by grant from the United States which prescribes the manner of disposal at a minimum price shall be disposed of except in the manner and for at least the price prescribed without the consent of the United States.

(4) All public land shall be classified by the board of land commissioners in a manner provided by law. A public land may be exchanged for other land, public or private, which is equal in value and, as closely as possible, equal in area.

ARTICLE XI

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Definition. The term "local government units" includes, but is not limited to, counties and incorporated cities and towns. Other local government units may be established by law.

Section 2. Counties. The counties of the state are those that exist on the date of ratification of this constitution. No county boundary may be changed or county seat transferred until approved by a majority of those voting on the question in each county affected.

Section 3. Forms of government. (1) The legislature shall provide methods for governing local government units and procedures for incorporating, classifying, merging, consolidating, and dissolving such units, and altering their boundaries. The legislature shall provide such optional alternative forms of government that each unit or combination of units may adopt, amend, or abandon an optional alternative form by a majority of those voting on the question.

(2) One optional form of county government included but is not limited to, the election of three county comm

oners, a clerk and recorder, a clerk of district court, a county attorney, a sheriff, a treasurer, a surveyor, a county superintendent of schools, an assessor, a coroner, and a public administrator. The terms, qualifications, duties, and compensation of those offices shall be provided by law. The board of county commissioners may consolidate two or more such offices. The Boards of two or more counties may provide for a joint office and for the election of one official to perform the duties of any such office in those counties.

Section 4. General powers. (1) A local government unit without self-government powers has the following general powers:

(a) An incorporated city or town has the powers of a municipal corporation and legislative, administrative, and other powers provided or implied by law.

(b) A county has legislative, administrative, and other powers provided or implied by law.

(c) Other local government units have powers provided by law.

(2) The powers of incorporated cities and towns and counties shall be liberally construed.

Section 5. Self-government charters. (1) The legislature shall provide procedures permitting a local government unit or combination of units to frame, adopt, amend, revise, or abandon a self-government charter with the approval of a majority of those voting on the question. The procedures shall not require approval of a charter by a legislative body.

(2) If the legislature does not provide such procedures by July 1, 1975, they may be established by election either:

(a) Initiated by petition in the local government unit or combination of units; or

(b) Called by the governing body of the local government unit or combination of units.

(3) Charter provisions establishing executive, legislative, and administrative structure and organization are superior to statutory provisions.

Section 6. Self-government powers. A local government unit adopting a self-government charter may exercise any power not prohibited by this constitution, law, or charter. This grant of self-government powers may be extended to other local government units through optional forms of government provided for in section 3.

Section 7. Intergovernmental cooperation

(1) Unless prohibited by law or charter, a local government unit may

(a) cooperate in the exercise of any function, power, responsibility with,

(b) share the services of any officer or facilities with,

(c) transfer or delegate any function, power, responsibility, or duty of any officer to one or more other local government units, school districts, the state, or the United States.

(2) The qualified electors of a local government unit may, by initiative or referendum, require it to do so.

Section 8. Initiative and referendum. The legislature shall extend the initiative and referendum power reserved to the people by the constitution to the qualified electors of each local government unit.

Section 9. Voter review of local government. (1) The legislature shall, within four years of the ratification of this constitution, provide procedures requiring each local government unit or combination of units to review its structure and submit one alternative form of government to the qualified electors at the next general or special election.

(2) The legislature shall require an election in each local government to determine whether a local government will undertake a review procedure once every ten years after the first election. Approval by a majority of those voting in the decennial general election on the question of undertaking local government review is necessary to mandate the election of a local government study commission. Study commission members shall be elected during any regular scheduled election in local governments mandating the election.

ARTICLE XII

DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

Section 1. Agriculture. (1) The legislature shall provide for a Department of Agriculture and enact laws and provide appropriations to protect, enhance, and develop agriculture.

(2) Special levies may be made on livestock and on agricultural commodities for disease control and indemnification, predator control, and livestock and commodity inspection, protection, research, and promotion. Revenue derived shall be used solely for the purposes of the levies.

Section 2. Labor. (1) The legislature shall provide for a Department of Labor and Industry, headed by a Commissioner appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate.

(2) A maximum period of 8 hours is a regular day's work in all industries and employment except agriculture and stock raising. The legislature may change this maximum period to promote the general welfare.

Section 3. Institutions and assistance. (1) The state shall establish and support institutions and facilities as the public good may require, including homes which may be necessary and desirable for the care of veterans.

(2) Persons committed to any such institutions shall retain all rights except those necessarily suspended as a condition of commitment. Suspended rights are restored upon termination of the state's responsibility.

(3) The legislature shall provide such economic assistance and social and rehabilitative services as may be necessary for those inhabitants who, by reason of age, infirmities, or misfortune may have need for the aid of society.

ARTICLE XIII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Nonmunicipal corporations. (1) Corporate charters shall be granted, modified, or dissolved only pursuant to general law.

(2) The legislature shall provide protection and education for the people against harmful and unfair practices by either foreign or domestic corporations, individuals, or associations.

(3) The legislature shall pass no law retrospective in its operations which imposes on the people a new liability in respect to transactions or considerations already passed.

Section 2. Consumer counsel. The legislature shall provide for an office of consumer counsel which shall have the duty of representing consumer interests in hearings before the public service commission or any other successor agency. The legislature shall provide for the funding of the office of consumer counsel by a special tax on the net income or gross revenues of regulated companies.

Section 3. Repealed. Sec. 1, Const. Amend. No. 16, 1986.

Section 4. Code of ethics. The legislature shall provide a code of ethics prohibiting conflict between public duty and private interest for members of the legislature and all state and local officers and employees.

Section 5. Exemption laws. The legislature shall enact liberal homestead and exemption laws.

Section 6. Perpetuities. No perpetuities shall be allowed except for charitable purposes.

ARTICLE XIV

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

Section 1. Constitutional convention. The legislature, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members, whether one or more bodies, may at any time submit to the qualified electors the question of whether there shall be an unlimited convention to revise, alter, or amend the constitution.

Section 2. Initiative for constitutional convention.
(1) The people may by initiative petition direct the secretary of state to submit to the qualified electors the question of whether there shall be an unlimited convention to revise, alter, or amend this constitution. The petition shall be signed by at least ten percent of the qualified electors of the state. That number shall include at least ten percent of the qualified electors in each of two-fifths of the legislative districts.

(2) The secretary of state shall certify the filing of the petition in his office and cause the question to be submitted at the next general election.

Section 3. Periodic submission. If the question of holding a convention is not otherwise submitted during a period of 20 years, it shall be submitted as provided by law at the general election in the twentieth year following the last submission.

Section 4. Call of convention. If a majority of those voting on the question answer in the affirmative, the legislature shall provide for the calling thereof at its next session. The number of delegates to the convention shall be the same as that of the larger body of the legislature. The

qualifications of delegates shall be the same as the highest qualifications required for election to the legislature. The legislature shall determine whether the delegates may be nominated on a partisan or a non-partisan basis. They shall be elected at the same places and in the same districts as are the members of the legislative body determining the number of delegates.

Section 5. Convention expenses. The legislature shall, in the act calling the convention, designate the day, hour, and place of its meeting, and fix and provide for the pay of its members and officers and the necessary expenses of the convention.

Section 6. Oath, vacancies. Before proceeding, the delegates shall take the oath provided in this constitution. Vacancies occurring shall be filled in the manner provided for filling vacancies in the legislature if not otherwise provided by law.

Section 7. Convention duties. The convention shall meet after the election of the delegates and prepare such revisions, alterations, or amendments to the constitution as may be deemed necessary. They shall be submitted to the qualified electors for ratification or rejection as a whole or as separate articles or amendments as determined by the convention at an election appointed by the convention for that purpose not less than two months after adjournment. Unless so submitted and approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon, no such revision, alteration, or amendment shall take effect.

Section 8. Amendment by legislative referendum. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by any member of the legislature. If adopted by an affirmative roll call vote of two-thirds of all the members thereof, whether one or more bodies, the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors at the next general election. If approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon, the amendment shall become a part of this constitution on the first day of July after certification of the election returns unless the amendment provides otherwise.

Section 9. Amendment by initiative. (1) The people may also propose constitutional amendments by initiative. Petitions including the full text of the proposed amendment shall be signed by at least ten percent of the

qualified electors of the state. That number shall include at least ten percent of the qualified electors in each of two fifths of the legislative districts.

(2) The petitions shall be filed with the secretary of state. If the petitions are found to have been signed by the required number of electors, the secretary of state shall cause the amendment to be published as provided by law twice each month for two months previous to the next regular state-wide election.

(3) At that election, the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors for approval or rejection. If approved by a majority voting thereon, it shall become part of the constitution effective the first day of July following its approval, unless the amendment provides otherwise.

Section 10. Petition signers. The number of qualified electors required for the filing of any petition provided for in this Article shall be determined by the number of votes cast for the office of governor in the preceding general election.

Section 11. Submission. If more than one amendment is submitted at the same election, each shall be so prepared and distinguished that it can be voted upon separately.

Done in open convention at the city of Helena, in the state of Montana, this twenty-second day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-two.

Leo Graybill, Jr., President
Jean M. Bowman, Secretary
Magnus Aasheim
John H. Anderson, Jr.
Oscar L. Anderson
Harold Arbanas
Franklin Arness
Cedor B. Aronow
William H. Artz
Thomas M. Ask
Betty Babcock
Lloyd Barnard
Grace C. Bates
Don E. Belcher
Ben E. Berg, Jr.
E. M. Berthelson
Chet Blaylock

Virginia H. Blend
Geoffrey L. Brazier
Bruce M. Brown
Daphne Bugbee
William A. Burkhardt
Marjorie Cain
Bob Campbell
Jerome J. Cate
Richard J. Champoux
Lyman W. Choate
Max Conover
C. Louise Cross
Wade J. Dahood
Carl M. Davis
Douglas Delaney
Maurice Driscoll

CONSTITUTION

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eslie Eskildsen	Marshall Murray
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oel D. Furlong	Catherine Pemberton
C. Garlington	Donald Rebal
S. Gysler	Arlyne E. Reichert
tto T. Habedank	Mrs. Mae Nan Robinson
od Hanson	Richard B. Roeder
S. Hanson	George W. Rollins
ene Harbaugh	Miles Romney
aul K. Harlow	Sterling Rygg
George Harper	Don Scanlin
aniel W. Harrington	John M. Schiltz
George B. Heliker	Henry Siderius
avid L. Holland	Clark E. Simon
rnold W. Jacobsen	Carman M. Skari
George H. James	M. Lynn Sparks
orrey B. Johnson	Lucile Speer
thomas F. Joyce	R. J. Studer, Sr.
W. Kamhoot	Mrs. John Justin
Robert Lee Kelleher	(Veronica) Sullivan
ohn H. Leuthold	William H. Swanberg
rome T. Loendorf	John H. Toole
eter "Pete" Lorello	Mrs. Edith M. Van Buskirk
Joseph H. McCarvel	Robert Vermillion
ussell C. McDonough	Roger A. Wagner
ike McKeon	Jack K. Ward
Charles B. McNeil	Margaret S. Warden
Charles H. Mahoney	Archie O. Wilson
achell K. Mansfield	Robert F. Woodmansey

TRANSITION SCHEDULE

Transition Schedule. The following provisions shall remain part of this Constitution until their terms have been executed. Once each year the attorney general shall review the following provisions and certify to the secretary of state which, if any, have been executed. Any provisions so certified shall thereafter be removed from this Schedule and no longer published as part of this Constitution.

Section 1. Accelerated effective date. Executed and certified by letter, December 4, 1974).

CONSTITUTION

Section 2. Delayed effective date. Executed (certified by letter, December 4, 1974).

Section 3. Prospective operation of declaration rights. Any rights, procedural or substantive, created for the first time by Article II shall be prospective and not retroactive.

Section 4. Terms of judiciary. Executed (certified by letter, December 20, 1978).

Section 5. Terms of legislators. Executed (certified by letter, February 22, 1977).

Section 6. General transition. (1) The rights and duties of all public bodies shall remain as if this Constitution had not been adopted with the exception of such changes as are contained in this Constitution. All laws, ordinances, regulations, and rules of court not contrary to, and inconsistent with, the provisions of this Constitution shall remain in force, until they shall expire by their own limitation or shall be altered or repealed pursuant to this Constitution.

(2) The validity of all public and private bonds, debts, and contracts, and of all suits, actions, and rights of action shall continue as if no change had taken place.

(3) Executed (certified by letter, February 22, 1977).

**INDEX
TO THE
CONSTITUTION**



A

References are to Article and Section Numbers

- Abolition of constitution**, right of people, II, 2
- Actions**, See **Civil actions and procedure**; **Crimes and criminal procedure**
- Acts**, V, 11, See **Bills**
- Administrative decisions**, review by district court, VII, 4
- Adults**, person 18 years of age or older an adult and exception, II, 14
 - person under 18 years of age entitled to all rights not specifically precluded, II, 15
- Agriculture**
 - appropriations for protection, enhancement, and development of agriculture, XII, 1
 - department of agriculture, XII, 1
 - hours of work, agriculture and stockraising employment excepted, XII, 2
 - levies on livestock and commodities for, XII, 1
- Alcoholic beverages** — legal age for purchase, consumption, or possession, II, 14; II, 15
- Amendment of constitution**
 - applicability of laws, III, 8
 - convention proposals, XIV, 7; XIV, 11
 - effective date, XIV, 8; XIV, 9
 - initiative, amendment by
 - effective date, XIV, 9
 - notice of proposed amendment, XIV, 9
 - petition, XIV, 9; XIV, 10
 - proposed by, XIV, 9
 - publication, XIV, 9
 - separate proposals, XIV, 11
 - publication of proposed amendment, XIV, 9
 - referendum, amendment by, XIV, 8; XIV, 11
 - right of people, II, 2
 - veto, bills proposing not subject to, VI, 10

Appeals

- district court jurisdiction, VII, 4
- procedural rules promulgated by supreme court, VII, 2
- supreme court jurisdiction, VII, 2
- tax appeals, VIII, 7

Apportionment of state into legislative and congressional districts, V, 14

Appropriations

agriculture, for, XII, 1

bills, generally, V, 11

budget

appropriations not to exceed anticipated revenue,
VIII, 8; VIII, 9

governor to submit budget to legislature, VI, 9
expenditures, appropriation and issuance of warrant
required, VIII, 14

initiative or referendum, not permitted for, III, 4; III,
5

sectarian education, prohibited for, X, 6

**Archaeologic areas, preservation and administration, IX
4**

Armed forces, See Military affairs

Arms — right to bear, concealed weapons prohibited, II,
12

Arrests

electors at polling places, immunity, IV, 6

legislative members, immunity, V, 8

warrant for arrest, requirements, II, 11

Assembly, freedom of, II, 6

**Attainder of treason or felony by legislature
prohibited, II, 30**

Attorney general

age, VI, 3

candidacy for public office during term, VI, 5

citizenship, VI, 3

compensation, VI, 5

duties, VI, 4

election, VI, 2

executive branch, member of, VI, 1

impeachment, subject to, V, 13

land commissioners, board of — member, X, 4

legal officer of state, VI, 4

oath of office, III, 3

public office, may not hold other office, VI, 5

qualifications, VI, 3

records of office, VI, 1

residence, VI, 1

Attorney general (Continued)

- succession in office, VI, 6
- term of office, VI, 1
- vacancy in office, VI, 6

Attorneys at law

- attorney general to be, VI, 4
- bar admission, rules of supreme court, VII, 2
- criminal actions, right to counsel, II, 24
- judicial officers, practice of law prohibited, VII, 9

Auditor, See State auditor

B

Bail

- all but capital offenses bailable, II, 21
- excessive bail prohibited, II, 22

Balanced budget, VIII, 8; VIII, 9

Bar admission, rules of supreme court, VII, 2

Bear arms — right to, concealed weapons prohibited, II, 12

Bill of rights, II, See Rights

Bills

- alteration or amendment changing original purpose prohibited, V, 11
- appropriation bills, V, 11
- challenge of law for technical errors in passage, V, 11
- one subject, V, 11
- original purpose may not be changed, V, 11
- private religious, charitable, industrial, educational, or benevolent purposes — appropriation for prohibited, V, 11
- signing by governor, VI, 10
- special or local acts prohibited, V, 12
- subject clearly expressed in title, V, 11
- title, subject expressed in, V, 11
- veto by governor, VI, 10
- vote required for passage, V, 11

Branches of government

- executive branch, VI, See **Executive branch**
- judicial branch, VII, See **Judiciary**
- legislative branch, V, See **Legislature**
- separation of powers, III, 1

Apportionment of state into legislative and congressional districts, V, 14

Appropriations

agriculture, for, XII, 1

bills, generally, V, 11

budget

appropriations not to exceed anticipated revenue, VIII, 8; VIII, 9

governor to submit budget to legislature, VI, 9

expenditures, appropriation and issuance of warrant required, VIII, 14

initiative or referendum, not permitted for, III, 4; III, 5

sectarian education, prohibited for, X, 6

Archaeologic areas, preservation and administration, IX 4

Armed forces, See Military affairs

Arms — right to bear, concealed weapons prohibited, II, 12

Arrests

electors at polling places, immunity, IV, 6

legislative members, immunity, V, 8

warrant for arrest, requirements, II, 11

Assembly, freedom of, II, 6

Attainder of treason or felony by legislature prohibited, II, 30

Attorney general

age, VI, 3

candidacy for public office during term, VI, 5

citizenship, VI, 3

compensation, VI, 5

duties, VI, 4

election, VI, 2

executive branch, member of, VI, 1

impeachment, subject to, V, 13

land commissioners, board of — member, X, 4

legal officer of state, VI, 4

oath of office, III, 3

public office, may not hold other office, VI, 5

qualifications, VI, 3

records of office, VI, 1

residence, VI, 1

Attorney general (Continued)

- succession in office, VI, 6
- term of office, VI, 1
- vacancy in office, VI, 6

Attorneys at law

- attorney general to be, VI, 4
- bar admission, rules of supreme court, VII, 2
- criminal actions, right to counsel, II, 24
- judicial officers, practice of law prohibited, VII, 9

Auditor, See **State auditor**

B

Bail

- all but capital offenses bailable, II, 21
- excessive bail prohibited, II, 22

Balanced budget, VIII, 8; VIII, 9

Bar admission, rules of supreme court, VII, 2

Carry arms — right to, concealed weapons prohibited, II, 12

Bill of rights, II. See **Rights**

Bills

- alteration or amendment changing original purpose prohibited, V, 11
- appropriation bills, V, 11
- challenge of law for technical errors in passage, V, 11
- one subject, V, 11
- original purpose may not be changed, V, 11
- private religious, charitable, industrial, educational, or benevolent purposes — appropriation for prohibited, V, 11
- signing by governor, VI, 10
- special or local acts prohibited, V, 12
- subject clearly expressed in title, V, 11
- title, subject expressed in, V, 11
- veto by governor, VI, 10
- vote required for passage, V, 11

Branches of government

- executive branch, VI. See **Executive branch**
- judicial branch, VII. See **Judiciary**
- legislative branch, V. See **Legislature**
- separation of powers, III, 1

Budget

- appropriations not to exceed anticipated revenue, VIII, 8; VIII, 9
- governor to submit budget to legislature, VI, 9

C

Capital offenses not bailable, II, 21

Capitol of state located in Helena, III, 2

- executive officers to reside at seat of government, VI, 1

Cemeteries, property tax exemption, VIII, 5

Charities

- appropriations for private purposes prohibited, V, 11
- perpetuities prohibited except for charitable purposes, XIII, 6
- tax exemption, VIII, 5

Churches, See **Religion**

Cities, XI, See **Local government**

Citizenship, restoration by governor, VI, 12

Civil actions and procedure

- appeals, See **Appeals**
- courts open to every person, II, 16
- damages, legislative authority and exception, II, 16
- debt, imprisonment for, II, 27
- district court jurisdiction, VII, 4
- due process of law, II, 17
- eminent domain, II, 29
- employment injury, right of employee to redress, II, 1
- jury trial — right of, number of jurors, number required for verdict, II, 26
- justice's court jurisdiction, VII, 5
- liability, legislative allocation of responsibility, II, 16
- libel or slander, evidence and determination of issues, II, 7
- preexisting actions, effect of constitution, Transition Schedule, 6
- remedies, legislative authority and exception, II, 16
- right and justice to be administered without sale, denial, or delay, II, 16
- rules of practice and procedure promulgated by supreme court, VII, 2
- sovereign immunity abolished except as provided by law, II, 18

CONSTITUTION INDEX

- Civil actions and procedure** (Continued)
 - speedy remedy for every injury, II, 16
 - supreme court jurisdiction, VII, 2
- Civil rights**, See **Rights**
- Coal severance tax**, trust fund, IX, 5
- Code of ethics prohibiting conflicts of interest involving legislators and other public officials**, XIII, 4
- Colleges and universities**, X, See **Education**
- Commutations of sentences**, governor's power to grant, VI, 12
- Compact with United States not affected by new constitution**, I
- Compensation of state officials**, See **Salaries of state officials**
- Concealed weapons**, carrying not permitted, II, 12
- Conflicts of interest involving legislators and other public officials**, XIII, 4
- Congressional districts**, redistricting and reapportioning the state, V, 14
- Consumer counsel**, XIII, 2
- Consumer protection**
 - corporate practices, laws for protection and education of people, XIII, 1
 - utility companies, provision for consumer counsel to represent consumer interests before public service commission, XIII, 2
- Continuity of government in emergency**, III, 2
- Contracts**
 - corporations, law imposing new liability prohibited, XIII, 1
 - impairing obligation of contracts by law prohibited, II, 31
 - preexisting contracts, obligation unimpaired. Transition Schedule, 6
- Convention for amendment of constitution**
 - applicability of laws, III, 8
 - call, XIV, 4; XIV, 5
 - delegates, XIV, 4 — 7
 - duties, XIV, 7
 - election following, XIV, 7

CONSTITUTION INDEX

Convention for amendment of constitution (Continued)

- expenses, XIV, 5
- initiative to call, XIV, 2
 - petition form, XIV, 2
- meeting of convention, XIV, 5; XIV, 7
- oath of delegates, XIV, 6
- per diem of delegates, XIV, 5
- periodic submission to electorate, XIV, 3
- ratification of convention proposals, XIV, 7
- referendum, XIV, 1
- rejection of convention proposals, XIV, 7
- right of people to call, XIV, 2
- scope of convention authority, XIV, 7
- vacancies among delegates, XIV, 6

Corporations

- appropriation for private association or corporation prohibited, V, 11
- charters granted, modified, or dissolved pursuant to general law, XIII, 1
- consumer protection laws to be provided, XIII, 1
- special privileges, franchises, or immunities prohibited, II, 31

Corrections, See Crimes and criminal procedure

Counties, XI, See Local government

Courts, VII, See Civil actions and procedure; Crimes and criminal procedure; District courts; Judges; Judiciary; Justices' courts; Supreme court

Crimes and criminal procedure

- appeals, See **Appeals**
- appear and defend in person and by counsel, right to, II, 24
- arrests, See **Arrests**
- attainder prohibited, II, 30
- bail
 - all but capital offenses bailable, II, 21
 - excessive bail prohibited, II, 22
- commencement of proceedings, II, 20
- complaint, prosecution by, II, 20
- concealed weapons prohibited, II, 12
- confrontation of witnesses, right of accused, II, 23; II, 24
- counsel, right to, II, 24
- courts open to every person, II, 16
- cruel and unusual punishments prohibited, II, 22

Crimes and criminal procedure (Continued)

- debt, imprisonment for, II, 27
- deposition of witnesses, II, 23
- district court jurisdiction, VII, 4
- double jeopardy prohibited, II, 25
- due process of law, II, 17
- executive clemency, VI, 12
- finer
 - excessive fines prohibited, II, 22
 - remission by governor, VI, 12
- grand jury, II, 20
- habeas corpus privilege, II, 19
 - supreme court jurisdiction, VII, 2
- indictment, prosecution by, II, 20
- information, prosecution by, II, 20
- jury trial, right to, II, 24; II, 26
 - speedy public trial by impartial jury, II, 24
 - unanimous verdict required, II, 26
- justices' courts jurisdiction, VII, 5
- libel or slander, evidence and determination of issues, II, 7
- public trial, II, 24
- punishment
 - cruel and unusual punishments prohibited, II, 22
 - debt, imprisonment for prohibited, II, 27
 - excessive fines prohibited, II, 22
 - prevention and reformation, founded on principles of, II, 28
 - public office, eligibility suspended, IV, 4
 - restoration of rights on termination of state supervision, II, 28
 - suffrage, suspension of right, IV, 2
- rights of accused generally, II, 24
- searches and seizures, requirements, II, 11
- self-incrimination, compulsion prohibited, II, 25
- speedy public trial, right to, II, 24
- supreme court jurisdiction, VII, 2
- treason, II, 30
- venue of prosecutions and change, II, 24
- witnesses
 - accused's right to meet face to face and to compel attendance, II, 23; II, 24
 - detention of person as material witness, limitations, II, 23
 - treason, requirements, II, 30

Cruel and unusual punishments prohibited, II, 22

Cultural resources, preservation and administration, IX.
4

D

Debt

imprisonment for, II, 27
preexisting debts, effect of constitution, Transition
Schedule, 6

Debt limitations

balanced budget, VIII, 8; VIII, 9
local governmental entities, establishment of
limitations by legislature, VIII, 10
state debt, VIII, 8
use of loan proceeds, VIII, 11

Declaration of rights, II, See **Rights**

Defamation, evidence and determination of issues, II, 7

Departments of state government

agriculture department, XII, 1
appointment of officers, VI, 8
heads of departments, VI, 8
removal from office, V, 13; VI, 8
reports to governor, VI, 15
impeachment of heads of departments, V, 13
labor and industry department, XII, 2
number of departments, VI, 7
organization of government within, VI, 7
single executive to head each department, VI, 8
supervision by governor, VI, 8
temporary commissions, VI, 7
20 departments, VI, 7

Dignity of human being, protection, II, 4

Disabled persons, provision of economic assistance and
social and rehabilitative services, XII, 3

Disasters, See **Emergencies**

**Discrimination because of race, color, sex, culture,
social origin or condition, or political or religious
ideas prohibited**, II, 4

adult age, II, 14; II, 15
education, nondiscrimination in, X, 1; X, 7
equality of opportunity, improvement, Preamble
justice, courts open to every person, II, 16
military personnel, preferences, II, 35

CONSTITUTION INDEX

discrimination because of race, color, sex, culture, social origin or condition, or political or religious ideas prohibited (Continued)

- special grant by law of privilege, franchise, or immunity prohibited, II, 31
- veterans' preferences, II, 35

district courts, See also Judges; Judiciary

- absence of judge from state, forfeiture of office, VII, 10
- assignment of judges for temporary service to another district, VII, 6
- compensation of judges, VII, 7; VII, 9
- discipline of judges, VII, 11
- election of judges, VII, 8
- judicial districts, VII, 6
- jurisdiction, VII, 4
- political office during judge's term of office prohibited, VII, 9; VII, 10
- practice of law during judge's term of office prohibited, VII, 9
- process extends to all parts of state, VII, 4
- qualifications of judges, VII, 9
- removal and discipline of judges, VII, 11
- residence of judges, VII, 9
- substitution of district judge for supreme court justice, VII, 3
- supervisory control, VII, 2
- term of office of judges, VII, 7
- vacancies among judges, VII, 8
- vesting of judicial power in, VII, 1

districting and apportionment of state into legislative and congressional districts, V, 14

documents, public examination, II, 9

double jeopardy prohibited, II, 25

due process of law guaranteed, II, 17

E

education

- appropriation for private educational purposes prohibited, V, 11; X, 6
- boards of education
 - board of public education, X, 9
 - board of regents of higher education, X, 9

Education (Continued)

- school district trustees, X, 8
- state board of education, X, 9
- discrimination prohibited, X, 1; X, 7
- district trustees, X, 8
- duties of legislature in regard to educational goals, X, 1
- equality of opportunity guaranteed, X, 1; X, 7
- free public elementary and secondary schools, X, 1
- goals of educational system, X, 1
- governor, ex officio member of boards of education, X, 9
- reports to governor, VI, 15
- higher education, commissioner of, X, 9
- indians, cultural integrity to be preserved, X, 1
- land commissioners, board of, X, 4
- public education, board of, X, 9
- public land trust, X, 11
- public school fund
 - apportionment of interest and income, X, 5
 - composition of, X, 2
 - investment, VIII, 13
 - inviolable and guaranteed against loss or diversion X, 3
 - tax exemption for property for, VIII, 5
- regents of higher education, board of, X, 9
- religion
 - aid to sectarian schools prohibited, exception, V, 11; X, 6
 - nondiscrimination in education, X, 7
 - tests, qualifications, or teaching in public schools prohibited, X, 7
- school lands
 - apportionment of income to school districts, X, 5
 - board of land commissioners, X, 4
 - public school fund, proceeds from lands part of, X, 2
- state board of education — composition, responsibilities, X, 9
- superintendent of public instruction, VI, 1. See **Superintendent of public instruction**
- university funds, inviolable and guaranteed against loss or diversion, X, 10
 - investment, VIII, 13; X, 10
- university system, X, 9

Elections

- absentee voting requirements, IV, 3
- abuses of electoral process to be guarded against, IV, 3
- administration of elections, provision for, IV, 3

lections (Continued)

- arrest immunity at polling places, IV, 6
- ballot, secret ballot required, IV, 1
- candidates for public office, eligibility, IV, 4
- electors
 - number of qualified electors, determination, III, 7
 - qualifications, IV, 2
- free exercise of suffrage guaranteed, II, 13
- immunity from arrest at polling places, IV, 6
- initiative. See **Initiative and referendum**
- poll booth registration authorized, IV, 3
- referendum. See **Initiative and referendum**
- registration requirements, IV, 3
- residence requirements, IV, 3
- results, largest number of votes elects, IV, 5
- right of suffrage, II, 13
- secret ballot required, IV, 1
- winner, IV, 5

Emergencies

- call of militia, VI, 13
- continuity of government, III, 2
- importation of armed forces, II, 33

Imminent domain, just compensation required, II, 29

Employment, See **Labor**

Enabling Act continued in force, I

Enemy attack, See **Emergencies; War**

Environment, See also **Natural resources**

- gratitude for. Preamble
- protection and improvement, IX, 1
- reclamation of lands, IX, 2
- right to clean and healthful environment, II, 3

Equality, II, 4. See **Discrimination because of race, color, sex, culture, social origin or condition, or political or religious ideas prohibited**

Estates — descent not jeopardized by treason, felony conviction, or suicide. II, 30

Ethics

- code prohibiting conflicts of interest involving legislators and other public officials, XIII, 4
- judicial discipline for violation, VII, 11

Executive branch, VI. See also **Attorney general; Departments of state government; Governor; Lieutenant governor; Secretary of state; State auditor; Superintendent of public instruction**

- candidacy for public office during term, VI, 5

Executive branch (Continued)

- code of ethics for officers and employees, XIII, 4
- compensation of officers, VI, 5
- continuity of government in emergency, III, 2
- duties of officers, VI, 4
- election of officers, VI, 2
- impeachment of officers, V, 13
- information to governor, VI, 15
- oath of office, III, 3
- officers comprising executive branch, VI, 1
- public office, may not hold other office, VI, 5
- public right of participation in decisionmaking process
II, 8
- qualifications of officers, VI, 3
- records of offices, VI, 1; VI, 4
- removal from public office, V, 13
- residence of officers, VI, 1
- separation of powers, III, 1
- succession in office, III, 2; VI, 6
- terms of office, VI, 1
 - elected or appointed officers in office or on
effective date of new constitution, Transition
Schedule, 6
- vacancy in office, VI, 6

Executive clemency, VI, 12

Exemptions

- liberal exemption laws to be enacted, XIII, 5
- property tax exemptions, VIII, 5

Ex post facto laws prohibited, II, 31; XIII, 1

Expression, freedom of, II, 7

F

Finance, See **Revenue and finance**

Fines and forfeitures

- excessive fines prohibited, II, 22
- remission by governor, VI, 12

Franchises, special grant by law prohibited, II, 31

Freedom of individuals, II, 3

G

**Gambling prohibited unless authorized by legislature
or by people**, III, 9

CONSTITUTION INDEX

Governor

- absence from state, lieutenant governor as acting governor, VI, 14
- acting governor, VI, 14
- age, VI, 3
- appointments
 - department heads, VI, 8
 - vacancy in executive office, VI, 6
- armed persons, importation into state, II, 33
- budget, submission to legislature, VI, 9
- candidacy for public office during term, VI, 5
- citizenship of governor, VI, 3
- citizenship, power to restore, VI, 12
- commander-in-chief of militia, VI, 13
- compensation, VI, 5
- death, succession of lieutenant governor, VI, 14
- delegation of constitutional powers to lieutenant governor prohibited, VI, 4
- departments of state government, supervisor of, VI, 8
- disqualification, succession of lieutenant governor, VI, 14
- duties generally, VI, 4
- education, boards of — ex officio member, X, 9
- election, VI, 2
- executive branch, office in, VI, 1
- executive clemency, VI, 12
- executive power vested in, VI, 4
- finances and forfeitures, power to suspend or remit, VI, 12
- governor-elect, succession to office, VI, 14
- impeachment, subject to, V, 13
- inability to serve, procedure, VI, 14
- information from branches and departments of government, authority to require, VI, 15
- land commissioners, board of — member, X, 4
- messages to legislature, VI, 9
- military affairs, commander-in-chief, VI, 13
- oath of office, III, 3
- public education, board of — member, X, 9
- public office, may not hold other public office, VI, 5
- qualifications, VI, 3
- records of office, VI, 1
- regents of higher education, ex officio member of board, X, 9
- reprieves, commutations, and pardons — power to grant, VI, 12
- residence, VI, 1

Governor (Continued)

- salary, VI, 5
- senate confirmation of appointments, VI, 8
- special sessions of legislature, authority to convene, V, 6; VI, 11
- succession to office, VI, 6; VI, 14
- term of office, VI, 1
- vacancy in office of governor, succession, VI, 6; VI, 1
- veto power, VI, 10

Grand jury, II, 20

H

Habeas corpus privilege, II, 19

- supreme court jurisdiction, VII, 2

Highway revenues — permissible uses, diversion, VIII,

Historic areas, preservation and administration, IX, 4

Homestead, liberal laws to be enacted, XIII, 5

Hospitals, property tax exemption, VIII, 5

House of Representatives, See **Legislature**

Human dignity inviolable, II, 4

I

Immunities, special grant by law prohibited, II, 31

Impeachment of officers, V, 13

Inalienable rights enumerated, II, 3

Independence of state, II, 2

Indians

- education, preservation of cultural integrity, X, 1
- lands under jurisdiction of congress, I

Individual dignity, protection, II, 4

Information, freedom of, II, 9

Initiative and referendum

- constitutional revision, See **Amendment of constitution**
- elections on measures, general or special, III, 6
- electors, number of qualified electors, III, 7
- gambling, authorization by, III, 9
- initiatives
 - appropriations of money excepted, III, 4

Initiative and referendum (Continued)

constitutional convention or amendment, See

Amendment of constitution

local or special laws excepted, III, 4

petitions — contents, signing, filing, III, 4

right of people, III, 4

local government, powers reserved to qualified electors
of local government unit, XI, 8

intergovernmental cooperation, initiative or
referendum for, XI, 7

self-government charters, initiative for, XI, 5

lotteries, authorization by, III, 9

number of qualified electors, how determined, III, 7

referendum

appropriation of money excepted, III, 5

constitutional convention or amendment,

submission by referendum, XIV, 1; XIV, 8, See

Amendment of constitution

order by legislature, III, 5

petition of electorate, III, 5

suspension of referred act, III, 5

reservation of powers by the people, V, 1

suspension of referred act, requirements, III, 5

veto, not subject to, VI, 10

Institutions

establishment as public good may require, rights of
persons committed, XII, 3

reports to governor, VI, 15

tax exemptions, VIII, 5

Invasion of privacy prohibited, II, 10

Investment of public funds, VIII, 13

J

Judges, See also District courts; Judiciary; Justices' courts; Supreme court

absence from state forfeits judicial position, VII, 10

compensation, VII, 7

ethics violations, discipline, VII, 11

judicial standards commission, VII, 11

oath of office, III, 3

political candidacy forfeits judicial position, VII, 10

qualifications, VII, 9

removal and discipline of judges, VII, 11

residence, VII, 9

CONSTITUTION INDEX

Judges. See also **District courts; Judiciary; Justices' courts; Supreme court** (Continued)

selection, VII, 9

terms of office, VII, 7

Judicial Standards Commission, VII, 11

Judiciary. See also **Civil actions and procedure; Crimes and criminal procedure; District courts; Judges; Justices' courts; Supreme court**

courts to be open to every person, II, 16

elections, determination of contested elections, V, 10

impeachment of officers, V, 13

judicial standards commission, VII, 11

oath of office, III, 3

right and justice to be administered without sale,
denial, or delay, II, 16

separation of powers, III, 1

speedy remedy afforded for every injury of person,
property, or character, II, 16

vesting of judicial power, VII, 1

Juries

criminal trials, right to trial by jury, II, 24

grand jury, II, 20

libel and slander, determination of facts and law, II, 7

right to jury trial, II, 24; II, 26

Justice, administration of, II, 16

Justices' courts. See also **Judges; Judiciary**

absence from state forfeits judicial position, VII, 10

compensation, VII, 5; VII, 7

election of justice of the peace, VII, 5

jurisdiction, VII, 5

number of justices, VII, 5

political candidacy forfeits judicial position, VII, 10

qualifications, VII, 5; VII, 9

removal and discipline, VII, 11

residence, VII, 9

supervisory control, VII, 2

terms of justices, VII, 7

vesting of judicial power in, VII, 1

L

Labor

department of labor and industry, XII, 2

hours of work, XII, 2

injury in employment, right to legal redress, II, 16

right to pursue life's basic necessities, II, 3

and Commissioners, Board of, X, 4

lands of state, X, See **Public lands**

laws

enactment, V, 11, See **Bills; Initiative and referendum**

preexisting, effect of constitution, Transition Schedule, 6

legislature

absent members, attendance may be compelled, V, 10

adjournments, V, 10

alcoholic beverages — establishment of legal age for purchase, consumption, or possession, II, 14

apportionment, V, 14

armed persons, importation into state, II, 33

arrest immunity of members, V, 8

attendance of absent members, may compel, V, 10

audit committee, V, 10

biennial sessions, V, 6

bills, form and procedure for passage, V, 11, See **Bills**

budget, submission by governor, VI, 9

code of ethics for members, XIII, 4

committees, establishment, V, 10

compensation of members, V, 5

composition of legislature, V, 1

contested elections, V, 10

continuity of government in emergency, III, 2

convening, V, 6; VI, 11

damages in civil actions, authority and exception, II, 16

disqualification for office, V, 9

districting and apportionment, V, 14

election of members, V, 3

contested election, power of courts to try, V, 10

judging of election, V, 10

ethics, code of, XIII, 4

expulsion of member, V, 10

house of representatives

districts, V, 14

number of members, V, 2

impeachment of officers, V, 13

initiative and referendum powers reserved by the people, V, 1, See **Initiative and referendum**

journal of proceedings, V, 10

legislative council, establishment, V, 10

length of sessions, V, 6

liability in civil actions, allocation of responsibility, II, 16

Legislature (Continued)

- messages submitted by governor, VI, 9
- number of members, V, 2
- oath of office, III, 3
- officers chosen from members, V, 10
- open meetings, V, 10
- place of convening, V, 10
- power of legislature, V, 1
- public office, disqualification for other office, V, 9
- punishment of member, V, 10
- qualifications of members, V, 4; V, 9
 - judged by each house, V, 10
- quorum, majority of each house constitutes, V, 10
- recess, V, 10
- remedies in civil actions, authority and exception, II, 16
- residence, V, 4
- senate
 - department heads, confirmation, VI, 8
 - districts, V, 14
 - impeachment tribunal, V, 13
 - judges, confirmation, VII, 8
 - labor and industry, commissioner of —
 - confirmation, XII, 3
 - number of members, V, 2
- separation of powers, III, 1
- sessions
 - biennial sessions, V, 6
 - open to public, V, 10
 - special sessions, V, 6; VI, 11
- size of legislature, V, 2
- special sessions, V, 6; VI, 11
- speeches of members not to be questioned in other place, V, 8
- structure of legislature, V, 1
- terms of members, V, 3
- vacancies, how filled, V, 7
- vesting of legislative power in legislature, V, 1
- veto of bill, poll of legislature, VI, 10

Libel, evidence and determination of issues, II, 7

Libraries, property tax exemption, VIII, 5

Lieutenant governor

- acting governor, VI, 14
- age, VI, 3
- candidacy for other public office during term, VI, 5
- citizenship, VI, 3

Lieutenant governor (Continued)

- compensation, VI, 5
- delegation of governor's constitutional powers
 - prohibited, VI, 4
- duties, VI, 4
- election, VI, 2
- executive branch, member of, VI, 1
- impeachment, subject to, V, 13
- lieutenant governor-elect, succession to office, VI, 14
- oath of office, III, 3
- public office, may not hold other office, VI, 5
- qualifications, VI, 3
- records of office, VI, 1
- residence, VI, 1
- succession to office of governor, VI, 6; VI, 14
- term of office, VI, 1
- vacancy in office, VI, 6

Lives and liberties, right of persons to enjoy and defend, I, 3

Livestock

- hours of work for laborers, XII, 2
- levies for disease control and indemnification, predator control, inspection, protection, research, and promotion, XII, 1

Local acts prohibited, V, 12

Local government

- alternative forms of government, XI, 3; XI, 9
- code of ethics for officers and employees, XIII, 4
- counties to be those existing at ratification of constitution, XI, 2
 - alternative form of government, XI, 3; XI, 9
 - change of boundary or county seat, XI, 2
- debt limitations, VIII, 10; VIII, 11
- definition of "local government units", XI, 1
- establishment of local government units by law, XI, 1
- initiative and referendum powers extended to electors, XI, 5; XI, 7; XI, 8
- intergovernmental cooperation, XI, 7
- investments of public funds, VIII, 13
- loan proceeds, use, VIII, 11
- powers
 - local government unit adopting self-government charter, XI, 6
 - local government unit without self-government powers, XI, 4

Local government (Continued)

- revenue received or spent, strict accountability, VIII, 12
- review of structure of government, XI, 9
- self-government charters, XI, 5
- sovereign immunity abolished except as provided by law, II, 18
- special improvement districts authorized, VIII, 5
- taxation
 - appeal procedures for taxpayer grievances, VIII, 7
 - property exempt from taxation, VIII, 5
 - voter review of structure of government, XI, 9

Lotteries prohibited unless authorized by legislature or by people, III, 9

M

Meetings of government, public observation, II, 9

Military affairs

- call of forces when, VI, 13
- civilian control, II, 32
- commander-in-chief, VI, 13
- composition of militia, VI, 13
- continuity of government in emergency, III, 2
- importation of armed persons prohibited, II, 33
- preference to military personnel and veterans, II, 35
- quartering of soldiers in houses prohibited, II, 32

Minors entitled to all rights not specifically precluded by law, II, 14; II, 15

N

Naturalization power of district court, VII, 4

Natural resources

- coal severance tax, trust fund, IX, 5
- depletion and degradation, prevention, IX, 1
- gratitude to God for, Preamble
- protection and improvement, IX, 1
- reclamation of lands, IX, 2
- resource indemnity trust, IX, 2
- water rights, IX, 3

Necessities of life, right to pursue, II, 3

O

Oath of office, III, 3

Obligations

- impairment by law prohibited, II, 31
- preexisting obligations unimpaired, Transition Schedule, 6

- Open meetings, II, 9
- legislature, V, 10

P

- Pardons, governor's power, VI, 12

- Participation in government, See **Public participation in government**

- Peaceable assembly, freedom of, II, 6

- Perpetuities, prohibited except for charitable purposes, XIII, 6

- Petition of government, right to, II, 6

- Political power vested in and derived from people, II, 1

- Popular sovereignty, II, 1; II, 34

- Press, freedom of, II, 7

- Privacy, right of, II, 10

- Privileges, special grant by law prohibited, II, 31

Property

- eminent domain, just compensation required, II, 29
- estates, felony conviction or suicide not to affect descent, II, 30

- homestead and exemption laws, XIII, 5

- perpetuities prohibited except for charitable purposes, XIII, 6

- public lands, See **Public lands**

- right of persons to acquire, possess, and protect, II, 3; II, 12

- state liability for injury, immunity as provided by law, II, 18

- taxes, VIII, See **Revenue and finance**

- Protest of government action, right to, II, 6

- Public education, X, See **Education; Superintendent of public instruction**

Public lands

- classification of public lands by board, X, 11

- disposition of public lands, restrictions on, X, 11

Public lands (Continued)

- exchange of public lands, when authorized, X, 11
- land commissioners, board of, X, 4
- public school fund, lands included in, X, 2
- tax exemption, VIII, 5
- trust status of public lands, X, 11

Public officers

- conflict of interest, XIII, 4
- oath of office, III, 3

Public participation in government

- open meetings, II, 9; V, 10
- public records, right of inspection, II, 9
- right of people, II, 8

Public records

- open to examination, II, 9
- secretary of state, custodian, VI, 4
- water rights, IX, 3

Public schools, X, See Education; Superintendent of public instruction

Public utilities

- consumer counsel to represent consumer interests
 - before public service commission, funding by special tax, XIII, 2
- special privileges, franchises, or immunities prohibited II, 31

Punishment of crime, See Crimes and criminal procedure

R

Race, discrimination based on prohibited, II, 4

Reclamation of lands, IX, 2

Recreational areas, preservation and administration, IX, 4

Redistricting and reapportionment of state into legislative and congressional districts, V, 14

Regents of Higher Education, Board of, X, 9

Religion

- appropriation for religious purposes prohibited, V, 11
- discrimination based on prohibited, II, 4
- establishment of religion by law prohibited, II, 5
- free exercise of religion guaranteed, II, 5

CONSTITUTION INDEX

eligion (Continued)

schools

aid to sectarian schools by state prohibited, V, 11;
X, 6

nondiscrimination in education, X, 7

tax exemption for church property, VIII, 5

eprieves, governor's power, VI, 12

esource indemnity trust, IX, 2

etrospective laws, II, 31; XIII, 1

evenue and finance

accountability for revenue spent and received, VIII, 12

agriculture, levies for, XII, 1

appropriations, See **Appropriations**

budget

appropriations not to exceed anticipated revenue,
VIII, 8; VIII, 9

governor to submit budget to legislature, VI, 9

coal severance tax, trust fund, IX, 5

consumer counsel, special tax for, XIII, 2

expenditures

appropriation and issuance of warrant required,
VIII, 14

strict accountability, VIII, 12

fuel taxes, use, VIII, 6

highway revenues, restrictions on use, VIII, 6

indebtedness

local government debt limitations, VIII, 10

state debt, limitations, VIII, 8; VIII, 9

use of loan proceeds, VIII, 11

investment of public funds, VIII, 13

levy of taxes by general laws for public purposes, VIII,
1

livestock and commodities, levies for, XII, 1

loan proceeds, use, VIII, 11

local government debt limitation, VIII, 10

resource indemnity trust, IX, 2

special improvement districts authorized, VIII, 5

strict accountability for revenue received or spent,
VIII, 12

taxation, VIII, 1 — 7. See **Taxation**

vehicle and fuel taxes, use, VIII, 6

revision, See **Amendment of constitution, Convention
for amendment of constitution**

rights, declaration of, II

creation for first time prospective and not retroactive,
Transition Schedule, 3

Rights (Continued)

- offenders, restoration of rights upon termination of state supervision, II, 28
- preexisting rights and obligations unimpaired, Transition Schedule, 6
- unenumerated rights not denied, impaired, or disparaged, II, 34

Right to know, II, 9

Riots

- call of militia forces by governor, VI, 13
- importation of armed forces for preservation of peace or suppression of domestic violence, II, 33

S

Safety, health, and happiness — right of person to seek, II, 3

Salaries of state officials

- executive officers, VI, 5
- judicial officers, VII, 7
 - justices of the peace, VII, 5; VII, 7
- legislators, V, 5

Scenic areas, preservation and administration, IX, 4

Schools, X, See Education; Superintendent of public instruction

Scientific resources, preservation and administration, IX, 4

Seal of state, secretary of state custodian, VI, 4

Searches and seizures, requirements, II, 11

Seat of government in Helena, III, 2

- executive officers to reside at seat of government, VI, 1

Secretary of state

- age, VI, 3
- candidacy for public office during term, VI, 5
- citizenship, VI, 3
- compensation, VI, 5
- duties, VI, 4
- election, VI, 2
- executive branch, member of, VI, 1
- impeachment, subject to, V, 13
- land commissioners, board of — member, X, 4
- oath of office, III, 3

Secretary of state (Continued)

- public office, may not hold other office, VI, 5
- qualifications, VI, 3
- records of office, VI, 1; VI, 4
- residence, VI, 1
- succession in office, VI, 6
- term of office, VI, 1
- vacancy in office, VI, 6

sectarian schools, See **Education**, religion

self-defense, right of, II, 3; II, 12

self-government, right of, II, 1; II, 2

self-incrimination, compulsion prohibited, II, 25

Senate, See **Legislature**

separation of powers among branches of government, III, 1

servicemen and servicewomen, See **Military affairs**

sex, discrimination based on prohibited, II, 4

slander, evidence and determination of issues, II, 7

sovereign immunity abolished except as provided by law, II, 18

sovereignty

- indian lands, I
- popular sovereignty, II, 1; II, 34
- state sovereignty, II, 2

special acts prohibited, V, 12

special improvement districts, authorization, VIII, 5

special privileges, franchises, or immunities —
irrevocable grant prohibited, II, 31

special sessions of legislature, convening of, V, 6; VII, 11

speech, freedom of, II, 7

speedy legal remedies guaranteed, II, 16; II, 24

state auditor

- age, VI, 3
- candidacy for public office during term, VI, 5
- citizenship, VI, 3
- compensation, VI, 5
- duties, VI, 4
- election, VI, 2

State auditor (Continued)

- executive branch, member of, VI, 1
- impeachment, subject to, V, 13
- oath of office, III, 3
- public office, may not hold other office, VI, 5
- qualifications, VI, 3
- records of office, VI, 1
- residence, VI, 1
- term of office, VI, 1
- vacancy in office, VI, 6

State Board of Education, X, 9**State capitol at Helena, III, 2**

- executive officers to reside at seat of government, VI, 1

State sovereignty, II, 2**Statutes, V, 11, See Bills****Succession in office, VI, 6; VI, 14****Suffrage, right of, II, 13, See Elections****Suicides, descent of property as in cases of natural death, II, 30****Superintendent of public instruction**

- age, VI, 3
- candidacy for public office during term, VI, 5
- citizenship, VI, 3
- compensation, VI, 5
- duties, VI, 4
- education, boards of — member, X, 9
- election, VI, 2
- executive branch, member of, VI, 1
- impeachment, subject to, V, 13
- land commissioners, board of — member, X, 4
- oath of office, III, 3
- public office, may not hold other office, VI, 5
- qualifications, VI, 3
- records of office, VI, 1
- residence, VI, 1
- succession in office, VI, 6
- term of office, VI, 1
- vacancy in office, VI, 6

Supreme court, See also Judges: Judiciary

- absence from state, forfeiture of office, VII, 10
- assignment of district judges for temporary service, VII, 6

CONSTITUTION INDEX

Supreme court, See also **Judges; Judiciary** (Continued)
compensation, VII, 7; VII, 9
composition of court, VII, 3
decisions, number to announce, VII, 3
election of justices, VII, 8
ethics violations, discipline, VII, 11
jurisdiction, VII, 2
oath of office, III, 3
political office during term of office prohibited, VII, 9;
VII, 10
practice of law during term of office prohibited, VII, 9
process extends to all parts of state, VII, 2
qualifications, VII, 9
removal and discipline, VII, 11
residence, VII, 9
rulemaking power, VII, 2
substitution of district judge for justice, VII, 3
supervisory control over other courts, VII, 2
term of office, VII, 7
vacancies, VII, 8
vesting of judicial power in, VII, 1

T

Taxation, VIII, 1 — 7
administration by state, VIII, 3
agriculture, for, XII, 1
appeals, VIII, 7
coal severance tax, trust fund, IX, 5
consumer counsel, funding, XIII, 2
fuel taxes, use, VIII, 6
inalienable power to tax, VIII, 2
levy for public purposes, VIII, 1
livestock, for, XII, 1
power to tax inalienable, VIII, 2
property taxes
 administration by state, VIII, 3
 equal valuation, VIII, 4
 exemptions, VIII, 5
 valuation, VIII, 4
resource indemnity trust tax, IX, 2
special improvement districts authorized, VIII, 5
vehicle and fuel taxes, use, VIII, 6
Towns, XI. See **Local government**
Trade practices
consumer counsel to represent consumer interests
 before public service commission, XIII, 2

Trade practices (Continued)

- consumer protection and education, XIII, 1
- special privileges, franchises, or immunities prohibited, II, 31
- utility companies, provision for consumer counsel to represent consumer interests before public service commission, XIII, 2

Treason, II, 30

Trial by jury, right to, II, 24; II, 26

U

United States

- compact with united states not affected by new constitution, I
- land grants, restrictions on disposition of, X, 11
- tax exemption, VIII, 5

Universities, X, 9, See **Education**

V

Veterans

- homes for care of veterans, XII, 3
- preferential treatment in the law, II, 35

Veto power of governor, VI, 10

Votes and voting, See **Elections**

W

War, See also **Military affairs**

- call of militia, VI, 13
- continuity of government, III, 2
- importation of armed forces, II, 33
- quartering of soldiers in houses prohibited, II, 32
- treason, as, II, 30

Water rights, IX, 3

Weapons, right to bear arms, II, 12

Welfare, provisions of economic assistance and social rehabilitative services required, XII, 3

Workmen's compensation, effect of provision by employer, II, 16

Writs, jurisdiction of

district court, VII, 4

supreme court, VII, 2

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

With All Amendments to July 5, 1971

(This Constitution was drafted by the Constitutional Convention which convened at Philadelphia on May 25 and adjourned on September 17, 1787, and became operative when ratified by 9 of the 13 states. The government created by the Constitution began operations on March 4, 1789. In the following draft those parts which have been superseded by later amendments are enclosed in brackets.)

PREAMBLE

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America.

ARTICLE I

Section 1. All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a congress of the United States, which shall consist of a senate and house of representatives.

Section 2. The house of representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several states, and the electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislature.

No person shall be a representative who shall not have attained to the age of twenty-five years, and been seven years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state in which he shall be chosen.

[Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons,

including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all other persons. The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the congress of the United States and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they shall by law direct. The number of representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand but each state shall have at least one representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the state of New Hampshire shall be entitled to choose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence plantations one, Connecticut five, New York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the representation from any state, the executive authority thereof shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies.

The house of representatives shall choose their speaker and other officers; and shall have the sole power of impeachment.

Section 3. [The senate of the United States shall be composed of two senators from each state, chosen by the legislature thereof, for six years; and each senator shall have one vote.]

Immediately after they shall be assembled in consequence of the first election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into the three classes. The seats of the senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the second year, of the second class at the expiration of the fourth year, and of the third class at the expiration of the sixth year, so that one-third may be chosen every second year; [and if vacancies happen by resignation, or otherwise, during the recess of the legislature of any state, the executive thereof may make temporary appointments until the next meeting of the legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies.]

No person shall be a senator who shall not have attained to the age of thirty years, and been nine years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state for which he shall be chosen.

The vice-president of the United States shall be president of the senate, but shall have no vote, unless they be equally divided.

The senate shall choose their other officers, and also president pro tempore, in the absence of the vice-president or when he shall exercise the office of president of the United States.

The senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When sitting for that purpose, they shall be on oath or affirmation. When the president of the United States is tried, the chief justice shall preside; and no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present.

Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States; but the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment, and punishment, according to law.

Section 4. The times, places and manner of holding elections for senators and representatives, shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof; but the congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing senators.

[The congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.]

Section 5. Each house shall be the judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its own members, and a majority of each shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members, in such a manner and under such penalties as each house may provide.

Each house may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member.

Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such parts as may in their judgment require secrecy; and the yeas and nays of the members of either house on any question shall, at the desire of one-fifth of those present, be entered on the journal.

Neither house, during the session of congress, shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which the two houses shall be sitting.

Section 6. The senators and representatives shall receive a compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law, and paid out of the treasury of the United States. They shall in all cases, except treason, felony, and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the session of their respective houses, and in going to and return-

ing from the same; and for any speech or debate in either house they shall not be questioned in any other place.

No senator or representative shall, during the time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no person holding any office under the United States, shall be a member of either house during his continuance in office.

Section 7. All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the house of representatives; but the senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bills.

Every bill which shall have passed the house of representatives and the senate, shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the president of the United States; if he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his objections, to that house in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large on their journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such reconsideration two-thirds of that house shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent together with the objections, to the other house, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two-thirds of that house, it shall become a law. But in all such cases the votes of both houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for and against the bill shall be entered on the journal of each house respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the president within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law, in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the congress by their adjournment prevent its return, in which case it shall not be a law.

Every order, resolution, or vote, to which the concurrence of the senate and house of representatives may be necessary (except on a question of adjournment), shall be presented to the president of the United States; and before the same shall take effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two-thirds of the senate and house of representatives, according to the rules and limitations prescribed in the case of a bill.

Section 8. The congress shall have power—

To lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts, and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

To establish an uniform rule of naturalization, and uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures;

To provide for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the United States;

To establish post offices and post roads;

To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries;

To constitute tribunals inferior to the supreme court;

To define and punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and offences against the law of nations;

To declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water;

To raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years;

To provide and maintain a navy;

To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces;

To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasion;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States, reserving to the states respectively the appointment of the officers, and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by congress;

To exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such district (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of particular states, and the acceptance of congress, become the seat of government of the United States; and to exercise like authority over all places purchased by the consent of the legislature of the state in which the same shall be, for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dock-yards, and other needful buildings; and

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

Section 9. The migration or importation of such persons as any of the states now existing shall think proper to admit shall not be prohibited by the congress prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each person.

The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it.

No bill of attainder or ex post facto law shall be passed.

No capitation or other direct tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

No tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any state.

No preference shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one state over those of another nor shall vessels bound to, or from, one state, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay duties in another.

No money shall be drawn from the treasury but in consequence of appropriations made by law; and a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.

No title of nobility shall be granted by the United States and no person holding any office of profit or trust under them, shall, without the consent of the congress, accept of any present, emolument, office or title, of any kind whatever from any king, prince, or foreign state.

Section 10. No state shall enter into any treaty, alliance or confederation; grant letters of marque and reprisal; coin money; emit bills of credit; make anything but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts; pass any bill of attainder ex post facto law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts, or grant any title of nobility.

No state shall, without the consent of congress, lay any imposts or duties on imports or exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection laws; and the net produce of all duties and imposts laid by any state on imports or exports shall be for the use of the treasury of the United States; and all such laws shall be subject to the revision and control of the congress.

No state shall, without the consent of congress, lay any duty of tonnage, keep troops, or ships or war in time of peace enter into any agreement or compact with another state, or

with a foreign power, or engage in war, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay.

ARTICLE II

Section 1. The executive power shall be vested in a president of the United States of America. He shall hold his office during the term of four years, and, together with the vice-president, chosen for the same term, be elected as follows:

Each state shall appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of senators and representatives to which the state may be entitled in the congress; but no senator or representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an elector.

The electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for two persons, of whom one at least shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves. And they shall make a list of all the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each; which list they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of government of the United States, directed to the president of the senate. The president of the senate, shall, in the presence of the senate and house of representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted. The person having the greatest number of votes shall be the president, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such majority, and have an equal number of votes, then the house of representatives shall immediately choose by ballot one of them for president. And if no person have a majority, then from the five highest on the list the said house shall in like manner choose the president. But in choosing the president the vote shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. In every case after the choice of the president, the person having the greatest number of votes of the electors shall be the vice-president. But if there should remain two or more who have equal votes, the senate shall choose from them by ballot the vice-president.]

The congress may determine the time of choosing the electors, and the day on which they shall give their votes; which day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No person except a natural born citizen, or a citizen of the United States at the time of the adoption of this constitution shall be eligible to the office of president; neither shall any person be eligible to that office who shall not have attained to the age of thirty-five years, and been fourteen years a resident within the United States.

In case of the removal of the president from office, or of his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on the vice-president, and the congress may by law provide for the case of removal, death, resignation, or inability both of the president and vice-president, declaring what officer shall then act as president, and such officer shall act accordingly, until the disability be removed or a president shall be elected.

The president shall at stated times, receive for his services compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have been elected; and he shall not receive within that period any other emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enters on the execution of his office, he shall take the following oath or affirmation:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm), that I will faithfully execute the office of president of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the constitution of the United States."

Section 2. The president shall be commander-in-chief of the army and navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several states when called into the actual service of the United States; he may require the opinion in writing of the principal officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices; and he shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment.

He shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the senate shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the supreme court, and all other officers of the United States whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law; but the congress may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers as they think proper in the president alone, in the courts of law, or the heads of departments.

The president shall have power to fill up all vacancies that may happen during the recess of the senate, by granting commissions, which shall expire at the end of their next session.

Section 3. He shall from time to time give to the congress information of the state of the union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary occasions, convene both houses, or either of them, and in case of disagreement between them with respect to the time of adjournment, he may adjourn them to such time as he shall think proper; he shall receive ambassadors and other public ministers; he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed; and shall commission all the officers of the United States.

Section 4. The president, vice-president, and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from office on impeachment for and conviction of treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. The judicial power of the United States shall be vested in one supreme court, and such inferior courts as the congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The judges, both of the supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behavior, and shall, at stated times, receive for their services a compensation which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.

Section 2. The judicial power shall extend to all cases, in law and equity, arising under this constitution, the laws of the United States, and treaties made, or which shall be made, under their authority; to all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls; to all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction; to controversies to which the United States shall be a party; to controversies between two or more states [between a state and citizens of another state]; between citizens of different states; between citizens of the same state claiming lands under grants of different states, and between a state or the citizens thereof, and foreign states, citizens, or subjects.

In all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, and those in which a state shall be a party, the supreme court shall have original jurisdiction. In all the other cases before mentioned, the supreme court shall have appellate jurisdiction both as to law and fact, with such exceptions and under such regulations as the congress shall make.

The trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury; and such trials shall be held in the state where the said crime shall have been committed; but when not committed within any state, the trial shall be at such place or places as the congress may by law have directed.

Section 3. Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court.

The congress shall have power to declare the punishment of treason, but no attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood, or forfeiture, except during the life of the person attainted.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1. Full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts, records and judicial proceedings, of every other state. And the congress may by general laws prescribe the manner in which such acts, records, and proceedings shall be proved, and the effect thereof.

Section 2. The citizens of each state shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states.

A person charged in any state with treason, felony, or other crime, who shall flee from justice, and be found in another state, shall, on demand of the executive authority of the state from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the state having jurisdiction of the crime.

No person held to service or labor in one state, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due.

Section 3. New states may be admitted by the congress into this union; but no new states shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any other state; nor any other state be formed by the junction of two or more states, or parts of states, without the consent of the legislatures of the state concerned, as well as of the congress.

The congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state.

Section 4. The United States shall guarantee to every state in this union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion; and on application of the legislature, or of the executive (when the legislature cannot be convened), against domestic violence.

ARTICLE V

The congress, whenever two-thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the congress; provided that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the senate.

ARTICLE VI

All debts contracted and engagements entered into, before the adoption of this constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this constitution, as under the confederation.

This constitution and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof, and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges of every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the constitution or laws of any state to the contrary notwithstanding.

The senators and representatives before mentioned, and the members of the several state legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several states, shall be bound by oath or affirmation to support this constitution; but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.

ARTICLE VII

The ratification of the conventions of nine states shall be sufficient for the establishment of this constitution between the states so ratifying the same.

Done in convention by the unanimous consent of the state present, the seventeenth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven-hundred and eighty seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the twelfth. In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

President and Deputy
from Virginia.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

AMENDMENT 1

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

AMENDMENT 2

A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

AMENDMENT 3

No soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

AMENDMENT 4

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrant shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the person or things to be seized.

AMENDMENT 5

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger, nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due

process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

AMENDMENT 6

In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

AMENDMENT 7

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States than according to the rules of the common law.

AMENDMENT 8

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

AMENDMENT 9

The enumeration, in this constitution, of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

AMENDMENT 10

The powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively or to the people.

AMENDMENT 11

The judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by citizens of another state, or by citizens or subjects of any foreign state.

AMENDMENT 12

The electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for president and vice-president, one of whom at least shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with their

es; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for president, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as vice-president, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as president, and of all persons voted for as vice-president, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed, to the chief officer of the government of the United States, directed to the president of the senate; the president of the senate shall, in the presence of the senate and house of representatives, open the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted; the person having the greatest number of votes for president shall be the president, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers, not exceeding three, on the list of those voted for as president, the house of representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the president. But in choosing the president the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. And if the house of representatives shall not choose a president whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the vice-president shall act as president, as in the case of the death or other constitutional disability of the president.

The person having the greatest number of votes as vice-president shall be the vice-president, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list the senate shall choose the vice-president; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally eligible to the office of president shall be eligible to that of vice-president of the United States.

AMENDMENT 13

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT 14

Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Section 2. Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for president and vice-president of the United States, representatives in Congress, the executive and judicial officers of a state, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such state, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such state.

Section 3. No person shall be a senator or representative in congress, or elector of president and vice-president, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any state, who, having previously taken an oath as a member of congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any state legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any state, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But congress may, by a vote of two-thirds of each house, remove such disability.

Section 4. The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any state shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave, but all such debts, obligations, and claims shall be held illegal and void.

Section 5. The congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

AMENDMENT 15

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States, or by any state, on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT 16

The congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several states, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

AMENDMENT 17

Section 1. The senate of the United States shall be composed of two senators from each state, elected by the people thereof for six years; and each senator shall have one vote. The electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislatures.

Section 2. When vacancies happen in the representation of any state in the senate, the executive authority of such state shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies; provided, that the legislature of any state may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointment until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

Section 3. This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any senator chosen before it comes valid as part of the constitution.

AMENDMENT 18

Section 1. After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territories subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

Section 2. The congress and the several states shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Section 3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the constitution by the legislatures of the several states, as provided in the constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the states by the congress.]

AMENDMENT 19

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT 20

Section 1. The terms of the president and vice-president shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the term of senators and representatives at noon on the 3d day of January of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

Section 2. The congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the third day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

Section 3. If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the president, the president-elect shall have died, the vice-president-elect shall become the president. If a president shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or of the president-elect shall have failed to qualify, then the vice-president-elect shall act as president until a president shall have qualified and the congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither president-elect nor a vice-president-elect shall have qualified declaring who shall then act as president, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a president or vice-president shall have qualified.

Section 4. The congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the house of representatives may choose a president whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the senate may choose a vice-president whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

Section 5. Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

Section 6. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states within seven years from the date of its submission.

AMENDMENT 21

Section 1. The eighteenth article of amendment to the constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

Section 2. The transportation or importation into any state, territory, or possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

Section 3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the constitution by conventions in the several states, as provided in the constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission thereof to the states by the congress.

AMENDMENT 22

Section 1. No person shall be elected to the office of the president more than twice, and no person who has held the office of president, or acted as president, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected president shall be elected to the office of president more than once. But this article shall not apply to any person holding the office of president when this article was proposed by the congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of president, or acting as president, during the term within which this article becomes operative from holding the office of president or acting as president during the remainder of such term.

Section 2. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the several states within seven (7) years from the date of its submission to the states by the congress.

AMENDMENT 23

Section 1. The district constituting the seat of government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the congress may direct:

A number of electors of president and vice-president equal to the whole number of senators and representatives in congress to which the district would be entitled if it were a state but in no event more than the least populous state; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the states, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of president and vice-president, to be electors appointed by a state; and they shall meet in the district and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

Section 2. The congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT 24

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for president or vice-president, for electors for president or vice-president, or for senator or representative in congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.

Section 2. The congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT 25

Section 1. In case of the removal of the president from office or of his death or resignation, the vice-president shall become president.

Section 2. Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the vice-president, the president shall nominate a vice-president who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both houses of congress.

Section 3. Whenever the president transmits to the president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the vice-president as acting president.

Section 4. Whenever the vice-president and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as congress may by law provide, transmit to the president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives their written declaration that the president is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the vice-president shall immediately

assume the powers and duties of the office as acting president.

Thereafter, when the president transmits to the president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the vice-president and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives their written declaration that the president is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after congress is required to assemble, determined by two-thirds vote of both houses that the president is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the vice-president shall continue to discharge the same as acting president; otherwise, the president shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

AMENDMENT 26

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.



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